[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government.]

*Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March* 1903.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(7926.)

F.O.
413
N 015
F.O. 413/33

PART 21.

# FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

# AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

33

1901.

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government.]

*Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. March* 1903.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(7926.)

PART 21.

# FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

# AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

1901.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.


| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 151 | Dec. 26, 1900 | France and Morocco. Conversation with Ghannam as to proposed Delimitation Commission .. .. .. .. | 1 |
| 2 | „ „ .. | 152 | 28, | France and Morocco. Nothing heard of proposed Mission to France. Mission to St. Petersburgh proposed .. .. | 2 |
| 3 | „ „ .. | 153 | 28, | France and Morocco. Article in "Temps" of 24th instant. Reported submission of Bu Amama to France (see No. 58) .. .. | 2 |
| 4 | Sir F. Lascelles .. | 5 | Jan. 5, 1901 | German claims in Morocco. Article in German press enumerating awards. Satisfaction at friendly disposition of Sultan .. .. | 3 |
| 5 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 4 | 4, | France and Morocco. Approves No. 1 .. | 3 |
| 6 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 2 | 5, | Morocco–Algerian frontier. Observations on Mr. O'Beirne's Memorandum .. .. | 3 |
| 7 | „ „ .. | 3 | 7, | France and Morocco. Further information respecting the Chief of the Zouria of Muley Idris .. .. .. .. | 4 |
| 8 | Sir E. Monson .. | 11 | 10, | Relief column for South Algeria. Transmits Military Attaché's report on movements and composition of .. .. .. | 5 |
| 9 | „ „ .. | 18 | 13, | Ditto, ditto .. .. .. .. | 5 |
| 10 | To Sir E. Monson .. | 16 | 15, | French influence in Touat region. Conversation with M. Cambon. Suggestion as to understanding as to certain boundaries .. | 6 |
| 11 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 5 Confidential | 13, | Morocco–Algerian frontier. Report of Tafilat native on Tafilat and Figuig districts .. | 6 |
| 11* | „ „ .. | 1 Tel. Secret | 21, | Letter from Sultan to the Queen as to French encroachments. Proposes to inform Sultan its transmission now would be ill-timed .. | 7* |
| 12 | „ „ .. | 6 Confidential | 15, | Morocco–Algerian frontier. Uneasiness of Sultan at French movements .. | 7 |
| 13 | „ „ .. | 7 | 15, | Reform of Moorish prisons. Sultan is taking steps to introduce reforms .. | 8 |
| 14 | „ „ .. | 8 | 15, | Minister for Foreign Affairs. Reports appointment of Cid Abdulkerim-ben-Sliman .. | 8 |
| 15 | „ „ .. | 9 | 15, | Transfer of Court from Morocco city to Fez. Reports likelihood of .. .. .. .. | 9 |
| 15* | „ „ .. | 10 Secret | 22, | Sultan's letter to the late Queen. Transmits translation of .. .. .. .. | 9A |
| 16 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 11 | Feb. 8, | Prison reforms. To express satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at .. .. | 9 |
| 17 | Mr. H. Quirk .. | .. | 12, | His Concession in north-west African territory taken under Spanish protection. Must consent of Spanish Government be obtained to dispatch of expedition? .. .. .. | 9 |
| 18 | To Sir E. Monson .. | 41 | 15, | French Bill approving Paris Convention for delimitation of French and Spanish possessions. Has Bill passed French Chambers and Convention been ratified? .. .. | 11 |







| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 14 | Feb. 6, 1901 | Establishment of native police force for Tangier. Suggests joint presentation of project to Moorish Government .. .. .. | 11 |
| 20 | „ „ .. | 15 Confidential | 7, | United States' Minister's Mission to Moorish Court. Desire of Moorish Government to prevent .. .. .. .. | 12 |
| 21 | „ „ .. | 3 Tel. | 18, | United States' Minister's Mission to Moorish Court. Informs of communication from Moorish Government to United States' Minister, stating that Sultan cannot receive him.. .. .. .. .. | 13 |
| 22 | Sir E. Monson .. | 57 | 18, | Delimitation of Franco-Spanish possessions bordering on the Sahara. Bill approving Convention for has not passed Chamber, nor has Convention been ratified .. .. | 13 |
| 23 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 12 | 20, | Establishment of native police force for Tangier. Approves action suggested in No. 19 .. .. .. .. | 13 |
| 24 | „ „ .. | 13 Confidential | 20, | United States' Minister's Mission to Court. Approves action reported in No. 20 .. | 14 |
| 25 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 16 Secret | 13, | The French and the Tuat oasis. Informs of letter from Sultan to M. Loubet and reply. Has refused to advise Moorish Government on the subject .. .. .. | 14 |
| 26 | „ „ .. | 17 | 14, | Commission to discuss local improvements in Tangier. Reports first meeting (see No. 138) .. .. .. .. | 15 |
| 27 | „ „ .. | 18 | 14, | Lists of semsars and mokhalats. Transmits note from Moorish Government. Question will be discussed at meeting of Diplomatic Body .. .. .. .. | 15 |
| 28 | „ „ .. | 19 | 14, | Right of protection in Morocco. Reports discussions of Diplomatic Body. A Memorandum will be forwarded to respective Governments (see his Nos. 15 and 19 of 14th and 22nd February, 1900) .. .. | 16 |
| 29 | Sir E. Monson .. | 6 Tel. | 23, | French proposal to occupy Figuig. Reports rumour as to. Occupation will probably take place before the end of the month .. | 17 |
| 30 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 4 Tel. Confidential | 27, | Mission of United States' Minister to Moorish Court. Mission will start notwithstanding. If further delay is attempted by Moorish Government, payment of United States' claims and formal apology will be demanded. Refers to No. 52 .. .. .. | 17 |
| 31 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 16 | 27, | Right of protection in Morocco. Approves No. 28. Awaits receipt of Memorandum before sending instructions .. .. | 17 |
| 32 | „ „ .. | 17 | 27, | Right of protection in Morocco. Approves No. 27 .. .. .. .. | 18 |
| 33 | Sir E. Monson .. | 65 | 27, | Recent attack on Timmimoum. Transmits Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson's No. 8 | 18 |
| 34 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 20 Confidential | 21, | Refusal of Moorish Government to receive Mission of United States' Minister. Reports conversation with Mr. Gummeré.. .. | 19 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | To Mr. H. Quirk . | .. | Mar. 5, 1901 | Expedition to Concessions in Adrar and Tekna. Consent of French Government must be obtained for expedition to Adran Sutuf, and of French and Spanish Governments to Adrar Tmarr. Questions may arise as to right of original concessionnaire to transfer Concession .. .. .. | 19 |
| 36 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 20 Secret | 6, | Moorish frontier and Tuat oasis. Approves No. 25 .. .. .. .. | 20 |
| 37 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 21 | Feb. 26, | Right of protection in Morocco. Transmits translation of note addressed to Sultan's deputy at Tangier .. .. .. | 20 |
| 38 | „ „ .. | 22 Confidential | 27, | Refusal of Moorish Government to receive Mission of United States' Minister. Mission will start notwithstanding. If further difficulties are made, payment of United States' claims and apology will be demanded (see No. 57) .. .. .. .. | 21 |
| 39 | „ „ .. | 23 Confidential | Mar. 1, | Proceedings of French between Tafilet and Igli. Anxiety of Moorish Government. Possibility of French occupation of Tafilet. Sultan is about to write to French President | 22 |
| 40 | Sir E. Monson .. | 86 | 7, | French military movements in South Algeria. Transmits Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson's No. 13 .. .. .. .. | 23 |
| 41 | „ „ .. | 88 | 7, | Figuig oasis and neighbouring tribes. Transmits notes by Mr. O'Beirne as supplementary to original Memorandum on subject (see No. 54) .. .. .. .. | 23 |
| 42 | Mr. H. Quirk .. | .. | 12, | Spanish territory on Moorish coast and Concessions in Adrar and Tekna. Thanks for No. 35, but does not understand whole letter .. .. .. .. | 25 |
| 43 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 23 | 15, | Madrid Convention. Approves terms of note inclosed in No. 37 .. .. .. | 26 |
| 44 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 24 Confidential | 5, | Disturbances between Moorish frontier tribes and the French. Conversation with French Minister as to desired delimitation of frontier and French designs .. .. .. | 26 |
| 45 | „ „ .. | 26 | 8, | Reorganization of Tangier police force. Transmits project which it is proposed United States' Representative should discuss with Moorish Government. Requests instructions as to question of right to arrest foreign subjects (see No. 53) .. .. .. | 27 |
| 46 | „ „ .. | 27 Confidential | 9, | Establishment of fishing station at Ifni and water supply of Ceuta. Conversation with Spanish Minister as to his late Mission to the Court .. .. .. .. | 28 |
| 47 | To Mr. H. Quirk .. | .. | 22, | His Concessions in Adrar and Tekna. Cannot enter into discussion as to points raised in No. 42. Nothing to add to No. 35 .. | 28 |
| 48 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 28 | 15, | Right of Protection in Morocco and interpretation of Madrid Convention. Transmits Memorandum containing observations of Diplomatic Body on the proposals submitted by the Moorish Commissioner (see No. 96) | 29 |
| 49 | „ „ .. | 29 | 15, | Disturbances in Province of Sus. Sultan has deferred his departure owing to outbreak of.. | 36 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Sir E. Monson .. | 105 | Mar. 20, 1901 | Military operations in South Algeria. Transmits despatch from Military Attaché at Paris reporting on .. .. .. .. | 36 |
| 51 | Intelligence Division .. | .. | 22, | Affairs in Algeria. Transmits Memorandum on by Captain Lynden Bell .. .. | 38 |
| 52 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 5 Tel. | 27, | Mission of United States' Minister to Moorish Court. Refers to No. 30. Minister will leave on man-of-war in a few days. His instructions .. .. .. .. | 40 |
| 53 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 27 | 27, | Reorganization of Tangier police force. Refers to No. 45. Instructions as to scheme containing a provision whereby authority would be granted to the police to arrest foreign subjects .. .. .. | 40 |
| 54 | Sir E. Monson .. | 120 | 29, | Figuig oasis and neighbouring tribes. Refers to No. 41. Transmits article from "Dépêche Coloniale" relating to the intended prolongation of the Oran–Aïn Sefra railway line to Igli .. .. .. .. | 41 |
| 55 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 30 | 23, | Condition of interior. Transmits Consular Report reporting unsatisfactory condition of interior .. .. .. | 43 |
| 56 | „ „ .. | 31 | 24, | French frontier troubles. Transmits paragraph from newspaper referring to attitude of Moorish Government in regard to the hostility evinced by certain Berber tribes in Tafilet towards French .. .. .. | 44 |
| 57 | „ „ .. | 32 | 27, | United States' Mission to Moorish Court. Refers to No. 38. Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs disclaims any intention of discourtesy towards United States. Moorish Court is willing to receive United States' Minister, who is to leave in a few days, and will press American claims .. .. | 45 |
| 58 | „ „ .. | 33 Confidential | 27, | France and Morocco. Refers to No. 3. Moorish public opinion strongly against French. Attitude of Sultan unfortunate .. | 45 |
| 59 | „ „ .. | 34 | 27, | Visit to the Court. Suggests presenting new credentials. Would like to utilize British man-of-war. Incloses estimate of expenses. Refers to Nos. 71, 72, and 84 .. .. | 46 |
| 60 | „ „ .. | 6 Tel. | Apr. 5, | France and Tafilet tribes. French have addressed note to Moorish Government, threatening an expedition to Tafilet unless tribes are kept in order (see No. 66) .. | 47 |
| 61 | „ „ .. | 35 | Mar. 31, | Condition of Province of Sus. Reported disturbances exaggerated .. .. .. | 47 |
| 62 | „ „ .. | 36 Secret | 31, | eforms in administration. Sultan determined to introduce sweeping reforms at once. Loan also desired in England.. .. .. | 47 |
| 63 | „ „ .. | 37 Confidential | 31, | France and Morocco. Rumours of hostilities at Tafilet untrue. Alarm of Moorish Government at French attitude .. .. | 48 |
| 64 | „ „ .. | 38 Confidential | 31, | Russia and Morocco. French Minister has suggested that a Moorish Mission should be sent to Russia. Advice to Sultan .. | 48 |
| 65 | Sir M. Durand .. | 5 Treaty | 31, | Franco-Spanish Treaty as to West African possessions. Treaty has been ratified .. | 49 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 66 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 5 Tel. | Apr. 6, 1901 | France and Morocco. Refers to No. 60. Sultan should do utmost to keep Tafilet tribes quiet (see No. 67) .. .. | 49 |
| 67 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 7 Tel. | 7, | France and Morocco. Refers to No. 66. Difficulty of obtaining trustworthy information as to Tafilet. Sultan seems to be doing his utmost to quell tribes .. .. | 49 |
| 68 | ,, ,, .. | 8 Tel. | 8, | France and Morocco. Has received appeal from Sultan asking if His Majesty's Government will assist him in the event of French designs on Tafilet. Proposes to speak confidentially to German Minister (see Nos. 69 and 70) .. .. .. .. | 49 |
| 69 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 6 Tel. | 9, | France and Morocco. Refers to No. 68. Approves advice reported. Authorizes to speak to German Minister .. .. | 50 |
| 70 | To Sir M. Durand .. | 10 Tel. Secret | 9, | France and Morocco. Refers to No. 68. Informs of appeal from Sultan. To inquire if Spanish Government have received communication from Moorish Government. To urge importance of maintaining the *status quo* | 50 |
| 71 | To Treasury .. | .. | 12, | Sir A. Nicolson's proposed visit to Sultan. Informs of No. 59. Urges Treasury sanction (see No. 95) .. .. .. | 51 |
| 72 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 12, | Sir A. Nicolson's visit to Sultan. Informs of No. 59. Inquires if it would be convenient that one of His Majesty's ships should be sent (see No. 59) .. .. .. .. | 51 |
| 73 | Sir A Nicolson .. | 39 Confidential | 1, | Franco-Moorish frontier. Tribes on the Ain-Sefra-Igli line are co-operating with French. Refers to No. 75 .. .. .. | 52 |
| 74 | ,, ,, .. | 40 Confidential | 2, | Visit of United States' Minister to Moorish Court. Further delay owing to difficulties of transport (see No. 107) .. .. | 52 |
| 75 | ,, ,, .. | 41 Confidential | 4, | Progress of Algeria–Sahara Railway and situation of affairs on frontier. Transmits Memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod on. Refers to No. 73 .. .. .. | 53 |
| 76 | ,, ,, .. | 42 Confidential | 5, | France and Morocco. French note threatening punitive expedition to Tafilet is causing much perturbation .. .. .. .. | 54 |
| 77 | Consul-General Newton | 3 Africa | 9, | Movement of French troops. Transmits sketch map and press cutting showing the great importance of the occupation of Igli .. | 54 |
| 78 | Messrs. Byrne and Co. | .. | 12, | Trading on north-west African coast. Inquires whether further advices have been received from Tangier. Longer continued inaction imperils British interests (see No. 101) .. | 55 |
| 79 | Sir M. Durand .. | 24 Tel. | 13, | France and Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the French policy towards Morocco (see Nos. 82 and 108) .. .. .. | 55 |
| 80 | Sir E. Monson .. | 139 | 12, | Military movements in French Colonies. Transmits despatch from Military Attaché reporting on .. .. .. .. .. | 56 |
| 81 | ,, ,, .. | 144 | 14, | Franco-Spanish frontier in West Africa. Transmits despatch from Military Attaché forwarding an article on .. .. | 57 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 82 | To Sir M. Durand .. | 11 Tel. | Apr. 15, 1901 | France and Morocco. Refers to No. 79 Instructs to state that Great Britain has no understanding with France giving latter free hand as regards Morocco .. .. | 58 |
| 83 | Admiralty .. .. | .. | 15, | Sir A. Nicolson's visit to Sultan. Refers to No. 72. Sir A. Nicolson should place himself in direct communication with Commander-in-chief on Mediterranean Station (see No. 86) .. .. .. | 58 |
| 84 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 10 Tel. | 16, | Sir A. Nicolson's visit to Sultan. Sultan wishes visit to be at Morocco city. Objection to proposal. Refers to No. 59 .. | 59 |
| 85 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 9 Tel. | 17, | Visit to Morocco city. Refers to No. 84. Approves answer to Sultan. Will be glad of his presence in London during stay of Mission .. .. .. .. | 59 |
| 86 | ,, ,, .. | 36 | 17, | Visit to Sultan. Informs of No. 88 .. | 59 |
| 87 | To Admiralty .. | Confidential | 18, | Visit of Sir A. Nicolson to Sultan. Informs of change of plans (see No. 99) .. .. | 60 |
| 88 | To Treasury .. | Confidential | 18, | Visit of Sir A. Nicolson to Sultan. Informs of change of plans .. .. .. | 60 |
| 89 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 43 Secret | 9, | France and Morocco. Informs of message received from Sultan inviting British help against French encroachments. General state of opinion in Morocco (see No. 103) .. | 62 |
| 90 | ,, ,, .. | 44 Confidential | 10, | France and Morocco. Conversation with German Minister respecting difficult position in which Sultan is placed (see No. 102) .. .. .. .. | 62 |
| 91 | ,, ,, .. | 45 Confidential | 11, | Affairs on Morocco–Algerian frontier. Refers to No. 75. Transmits further Memorandum by Mr. Macleod on situation of (see No. 174) .. .. .. .. | 62 |
| 92 | ,, ,, .. | 46 | 12, | Affairs on Morocco–Algerian frontier. Ait Atta tribe reported to have taken part in actions against French. They have been warned by Sultan against doing so (see No. 94) .. .. .. .. | 63 |
| 93 | ,, ,, .. | 47 | 12, | Condition of affairs round Fez. Transmits copy of despatch No. 9 from Vice-Consul .. | 64 |
| 94 | ,, ,, .. | 48 | 13, | Morocco–Algerian frontier. Refers to No. 92. Transmits a further Memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod .. .. | 65 |
| 95 | Treasury .. .. | .. | 18, | Visit of Sir A. Nicolson to Sultan. Refers to No. 71. Sanctions proposed expenditure .. .. .. .. | 65 |
| 96 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 37 | 19, | Right of protection in Morocco and interpretation of Madrid Convention. Refers to No. 48. Approves action .. .. | 66 |
| 97 | Sir E. Monson .. | 148 | 19, | Prolongation of the Oran-Ain-Sefra line to Igli. Transmits extract from "Dépêche Coloniale," showing it has been determined to survey the Kenadsa route with a view to .. .. .. .. .. | 66 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 98 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 11 Tel. | Apr. 21, 1901 | Moorish Mission to London. Minister for Foreign Affairs has taken place of Minister of War, who fears to leave Morocco. Sultan hopes man-of-war will convey Mission to England. Opinion on extension of Mission to Paris and St. Petersburgh .. .. | 67 |
| 99 | Admiralty .. .. | Confidential | 22, | Visit of Sir A. Nicolson to Sultan. Refers to No. 87. Commander-in-chief on Mediterranean Station has been informed of postponement of .. .. .. .. | 68 |
| 100 | Sir E. Monson .. | 157 | 22, | Military movements in South Algeria. Transmits despatch No. 28 from Military Attaché at Paris respecting .. .. .. | 68 |
| 101 | To Mr. J. Byrne .. | .. | 24, | Trading on north-west African coast. Replies to No. 78 .. .. .. .. | 68 |
| 102 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 39 Confidential | 25, | Moorish Mission to London. Refers to No. 90. Approves communications to Court and German Minister .. .. .. | 69 |
| 103 | „ „ .. | 40 Secret | 25, | Movements of French on Moorish frontier. Refers to No. 89. Approves reply to Sultan | 69 |
| 104 | „ „ .. | 41 | 25, | Trading on north-west African coast. Transmits No. 78 (see No. 132) .. .. | 69 |
| 105 | To Admiralty .. | .. | 26, | Moorish Mission to London. Informs of impending visit of Moorish Mission to London, and inquires if man-of-war will be available for conveying them .. .. .. | 70 |
| 106 | To Treasury .. | .. | 26, | Moorish Mission to London. Informs of. Requests sanction of expenditure for entertainment of .. .. .. .. | 70 |
| 107 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 50 Confidential | 19, | Morocco and United States. Refers to No. 74. American Representative has been instructed to take no further steps as to proceeding to Morocco city .. .. .. .. | 71 |
| 108 | Sir M. Durand .. | 29 | 20, | Morocco and European Powers. Refers to No. 79. Conversation with Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting .. .. | 71 |
| 109 | „ „ .. | 26 Tel. | 27, | Spain and Morocco. Further conversation with Minister for Foreign Affairs .. .. | 72 |
| 110 | Question asked in the House of Commons (Mr. Norman) | .. | 30, | Movement of French troops in and towards Morocco .. .. .. .. | 73 |
| 111 | To Sir M. Durand .. | 32 Confidential | May 1, | Maintenance of *status quo* in Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Ambassador. Spain will support maintenance of *status quo* .. | 73 |
| 112 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 51 | Apr. 22, | Moorish Mission to London. Composition of Mission and probable date of departure. May Mr. Irwin, interpreter to Legation, accompany Mission? .. .. .. | 73 |
| 113 | „ „ .. | 52 Confidential | 22, | Moorish Mission to St. Petersburgh and Paris. Personal opinion given to Sultan respecting sending of (see No. 120) .. .. | 74 |
| 114 | „ „ .. | 53 Confidential | 23, | Situation in Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Minister at Tangier respecting (see No. 121) .. .. .. | 74 |
| 115 | „ „ .. | 54 Confidential | 23, | France and Tafilet. Refers to No. 75. French have summoned the "znoinas" of Kenadsa and Karzag to make their submission. Sultan much disturbed .. .. .. | 75 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 116 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 12 Tel. | May 5, 1901 | Moorish Mission. If Moorish Government make the proposal, the French Minister would be ready to recommend to his Government that Mission be received .. .. | 76 |
| 117 | „ „ .. | 55 Confidential | Apr. 26, | Moorish Mission. Conversation with French Minister respecting .. .. .. | 76 |
| 118 | „ „ .. | 56 | 26, | Dismissal of Minister of Interior from office. Informs of dismissal of Hadj Mukhtar .. | 76 |
| 119 | „ „ .. | 13 Tel. | May 6, | Moorish Mission. German Emperor will receive Mission at Berlin .. .. | 77 |
| 120 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 43 Confidential | 7, | Moorish Mission to St. Petersburgh and Paris. Refers to No. 113. Approves advice given | 77 |
| 121 | „ „ .. | 44 Confidential | 7 | Situation in Morocco. Refers to No. 114. Approves language used to Spanish Minister | 77 |
| 122 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 58 | 1, | Rumours of movement of Tafilet tribes against French. Reports. Sultan dissuaded from leaving to maintain tranquillity (see No. 123) | 78 |
| 123 | „ „ .. | 59 | 2, | Disturbances among Tafilet tribes. Refers to No. 122. Confirms report of .. .. | 78 |
| 124 | „ „ .. | 60 | 2, | Bu Amama and Figuig. People of Ain Shair have asked Bu Amama to live with them .. | 78 |
| 125 | „ „ .. | 61 Confidential | 2, | Moorish Mission and Russian Government. Russian Government insist on a separate Mission going to St. Petersburgh. French do not wish to receive Mission till French Minister presents his credentials in the autumn .. .. .. .. | 79 |
| 126 | „ „ .. | 62 | 3, | French punitive expedition against certain sections of the Aits Atta. Transmits copy of Memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod as to reported intention of French authorities to send .. .. .. | 79 |
| 127 | „ „ .. | 16 Tel. | 15, | France and Morocco. Naval demonstration intended to be made at same time as presentation of demands for reparation (see No. 129) .. .. .. .. | 80 |
| 128 | „ „ .. | 63 | 5, | Visit of Moorish Mission to Paris. French Minister sees no objection to. Conversation with French Minister respecting .. .. | 80 |
| 129 | „ „ .. | 64 | 5, | Satisfaction for murder of M. Pouzet. Refers to No. 127. Account of occurrence and action to be taken by French Minister (see No. 136) .. .. .. | 81 |
| 130 | „ „ .. | 17 Tel. Confidential | 16, | French and Tafilet. Sultan is much disturbed at hearing that French are near Tafilet .. | 82 |
| 131 | „ „ .. | 18 Tel. | 17 | Arrival of French cruisers. Reports .. | 82 |
| 132 | „ „ .. | 65 | 10, | Cape Juby Agreement of 1895. Refers to No. 104. Transmits copy of note addressed to Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting prompt fulfilment of Articles 4 and 6 of (see No. 143) .. .. .. | 82 |
| 133 | „ „ .. | 66 Confidential | 11, | Agitation in Tafilet. French Minister has warned Moorish Government that, if any acts of hostility are committed, French force will inflict punishment .. .. .. | 83 |
| 134 | „ „ .. | 67 | 11, | Appointment of new Grand Vizier. Informs of | 83 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 135 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 68 | May 12, 1901 | Moorish Mission to England. Informs of composition of .. .. .. | 84 |
| 136 | „ „ .. | 19 Tel. | 20, | French demands for reparation. Refers to No. 129. French cruisers have left for Mazagan. Amount of indemnity claimed. French Legation is thought to be showing unnecessary precipitation (see No. 147) . | 84 |
| 137 | „ „ .. | 69 | 15, | French demands for reparation. Conversation with French Minister respecting .. .. | 84 |
| 138 | „ „ .. | 70 | 16, | Commission to discuss local improvements in Tangier. Refers to No. 26. Meetings have been suspended owing to obstructive tactics of Moorish Commissioners .. | 85 |
| 139 | „ „ .. | 71 Confidential | 16, | Situation in Tafilet. French action is much disturbing Sultan, who fears a revolution. Sultan has determined on an inactive policy . | 86 |
| 140 | „ „ .. | 72 Confidential | 16, | Contemplated visit of French Minister to the coast towns in man-of-war. Sutlan alarmed by .. .. .. .. .. | 87 |
| 141 | „ „ .. | 20 Tel. | 22, | Governor-Generalship of Algeria. Offered to M. Révoil, French Minister, who will probably accept .. .. .. | 87 |
| 142 | „ „ .. | 21 Tel. Confidential | 22, | Moorish Mission. Ambassador will only carry letter of congratulation to the King. Separate Missions to go to Russia and France .. | 87 |
| 143 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 50 | 24, | Cape Juby Agreement of 1895. Refers to No. 132. Approves terms of note .. | 88 |
| 144 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 73 | 19, | Moorish outrage on Spanish resident near Arzila. Spanish Minister informs of .. | 88 |
| 145 | „ „ .. | 74 | 19, | Moors and the Moorish Government. Feeling in Morocco between . .. .. | 88 |
| 146 | „ „ .. | 22 Tel. | 25, | Moorish Mission. Composition of changed. Is leaving for London himself .. .. | 89 |
| 147 | Mr. White.. .. | 23 Tel. | 27, | French demands against Moorish Government. Refers to No. 136. One of cruisers returned. French demands accepted in principle (see No. 149) .. .. .. | 89 |
| 148 | Sir E. Monson .. | 204 | 30, | Operations in South Algeria. Transmits despatch No. 36 from British Military Attaché at Paris respecting .. .. | 89 |
| 149 | Mr. White.. .. | 24 Tel. | 31, | Murder of M. Pouzet. Refers to No. 147. Affair said to be satisfactorily settled (see No. 152) .. .. .. .. | 90 |
| 150 | „ „ .. .. | 76 | 25, | Recall of Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs to Court. Reports. Reason for recall unknown .. .. .. | 91 |
| 151 | „ „ .. .. | 77 | 26, | Morocco and France. Conversation with intelligent Moor just arrived from Tafilet and Figuig on frontier matters (see No. 166) .. | 91 |
| 152 | „ „ .. .. | 25 Tel. | June 6, | Murder of M. Pouzet. Refers to No. 149. Reports Moorish action in matter (see No. 155) .. .. .. .. | 92 |
| 153 | „ „ .. . | 78 | May 30, | Murder of M. Pouzet. Reports further action by Moorish Government in settling matter as demanded by France (see No. 156) .. | 92 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 154 | Mr. White.. .. | 79 | May 30, 1901 | Moorish Missions to Paris and St. Petersburgh. Court announces impending dispatch of. French Minister announces that the Envoy to visit Paris must first settle pending questions at Tangier .. .. .. | 93 |
| 155 | „ „ .. .. | 26 Tel. | June 7, | Murder of M. Pouzet. Refers to No. 152. Moorish cruisers and one French cruiser have left to bring back released captives as well as prisoners from the Riff .. .. | 93 |
| 156 | „ „ .. .. | 80 | 3, | Murder of M. Pouzet. Refers to No. 153. Reports settlement of affair .. .. | 93 |
| 157 | „ „ .. .. | 27 Tel. | 10, | Murder of M. Pouzet. Refers to No. 155. Reports return of cruisers .. .. | 94 |
| 158 | Question asked in the House of Commons (Mr. Norman) | .. | 11, | Extension of French influence in Morocco .. | 94 |
| 159 | Question asked in the House of Commons (Mr. Lambert) | .. | 11, | Alleged assumption of French Protectorate over Morocco . .. . .. | 94 |
| 160 | Sir E. Monson .. | 226 Confidential | 14, | France and Morocco. Conversation with M. Delcassé respecting Moorish Mission to Paris. Details as to its composition .. | 94 |
| 161 | Sir M. Durand .. | 45 | 2, | France and Morocco. Conversation with Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting attitude of France .. .. .. | 95 |
| 162 | Mr. White.. .. | 81 | 5, | Influence of Bu Amama in districts near Fez. Transmits copy of despatch from Vice-Consul at Fez reporting attack made by a nephew of Bu Amama on two tribes east of Fez . .. .. .. .. | 95 |
| 163 | „ „ .. .. | 82 | 6, | Moorish Mission to Paris. Conversation with French Minister. It is not unlikely Mission will discuss frontier questions .. .. | 95 |
| 164 | „ „ .. .. | 83 | 11, | Murder of M. Pouzet. Reports that incident is completely closed to satisfaction of French Government .. .. .. .. | 96 |
| 165 | „ „ .. .. | 84 | 11, | Moorish Mission to Paris. Reports departure of French Minister, also of Moorish Envoy | 97 |
| 166 | „ „ .. .. | 85 | 11, | French railway enterprise. Refers to No. 151. Informs of reported extension of railway by French .. .. .. .. | 97 |
| 167 | Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson | .. | 25, | Improvements in Morocco. Incloses document signed by Moorish Ambassador embodying results of conversation on .. | 98 |
| 168 | Sir M. Durand .. | 48 | 18, | Situation in Morocco. Nothing further to report concerning .. .. .. | 100 |
| 169 | Sir E. Monson .. | 244 Very Conf. | 27, | France and Morocco. Advantage will doubtless be taken of special Mission to Paris to increase French influence in Morocco .. | 100 |
| 170 | Mr. White.. .. | 87 | 25, | France and Morocco. Transmits copy of despatch from Vice-Consul MacLeod respecting alleged meeting between Bu Amama and French officers .. .. .. | 100 |
| 171 | Memorandum on interview between Lord Lansdowne and Moorish Ambassador | .. | July 3, | Commercial arrangements and want of frontier-line between Morocco and Algeria .. | 101 |

| No. | Name | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 172 | To Sir E. Monson .. | 299 | July 3, 1901 | Commercial questions in Morocco. Transmits copy of Memorandum with regard to certain commercial questions discussed with Moorish Ambassador. Conversation with M. Cambon respecting .. .. .. .. | 102 |
| 173 | Mr. White.. .. | 88 | June 29, | French in Figuig. Transmits copy of despatch No. 22 from Vice-Consul at Fez respecting French advance in Figuig district | 103 |
| 174 | „ „ .. .. | 89 | July 4, | French and Ras-al-Ain. Refers to No. 91. Reports rumoured intention of French to occupy Ras-al-Ain .. .. .. | 104 |
| 175 | Sir E. Monson .. | 269 | 6, | France and Morocco. Transmits newspaper extract reporting statement made by M. Delcassé in Senate upon relations between .. .. .. .. | 104 |
| 176 | To Consul Maclean .. | .. | 8, | Moorish Mission to London. Expresses satisfaction at services in connection with .. | 105 |
| 177 | To Mr. Herbert .. | 309 | 10, | M. Delcassé's speech on France and Morocco. Conversation with French Ambassador respecting .. .. .. .. | 105 |
| 178 | Mr. White.. .. | 91 | 6, | Occupation by French of Ras-al-Ain in Beni Matar. Information from Vice-Consul at Fez confirming report of .. .. | 106 |
| 179 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 63 | 15, | France and Morocco. Transmits despatch of Sir E. Monson, inclosing "Journal Officiel" on speech of Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting .. .. .. .. | 106 |
| 180 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 92 | 12, | State of affairs in Morocco. A crisis probably imminent at Fez owing to Sultan's prolonged absence from city .. .. .. | 106 |
| 181 | „ „ .. | 93 | 13, | Results of Moorish Mission to England. Conversation with French Chargé d'Affaires respecting .. .. .. .. | 107 |
| 182 | „ „ .. | 94 | 13, | Movements of Moorish troops and possible transference of Court to Fez. Transmits despatch from Vice-Consul at Fez respecting | 108 |
| 183 | „ „ .. | 95 | 16, | Imprisonment by Sultan of Kaïd Aissa of Abda. Reports satisfaction of province .. | 109 |
| 184 | „ „ .. | 30 Tel. | 24, | Conflicts between French troops and tribes. Reports occurrence of in Figuig district .. | 109 |
| 185 | To Sir E. Monson .. | 336 Confidential | 24, | Visit of Moorish Embassy to Paris. Conversation with French Ambassador, giving explanation for duration of .. .. | 109 |
| 186 | Viscount Gough .. | 177 Secret | 23, | Moorish Special Ambassador at Berlin. Advice given by German Acting Secretary of State to .. .. .. .. | 110 |
| 187 | Sir E. Monson .. | 292 | 26, | Conflicts between French troops and Moorish tribes. No confirmation of report in Paris. Refers to No. 184 .. .. .. | 110 |
| 188 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 31 Tel. | 28, | Arrival of Kaïd Maclean and Menebhi at Mazagan. Report that Menebhi is in disgrace. He has applied for British and German protection .. .. .. | 111 |
| 189 | Viscount Gough .. | 47 Tel. | 28, | Disgrace of Menebhi. Reports message sent by German Government to Sultan with object of protecting the Moorish Ambassador .. .. .. .. | 111 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 190 | To Viscount Gough .. | 162 Tel. | July 28, 1901 | Disgrace of Menebhi. Should report prove true His Majesty's Government will regard Sultan's action as a serious affront. Refers to No. 188 .. .. .. .. | 112 |
| 191 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 16 Tel. | 28, | Reported disgrace of Menebhi. Surmises in No. 188 seem exaggerated .. .. | 112 |
| 192 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 96 | 19, | Abduction of Spanish boy and girl by Moorish mountaineers. Conversation with Spanish Minister respecting .. .. .. | 112 |
| 193 | „ „ .. | 97 | 20, | Fighting between French troops and Bu Amama. Reports receipt of despatch from Vice-Consul MacLeod confirming report of.. | 113 |
| 194 | „ „ .. | 98 | 23, | Movement in Fez for change of dynasty. Transmits Memorandum by Vice-Consul MacLeod respecting .. .. .. | 113 |
| 195 | „ „ .. | 99 | 23, | Fighting between French troops and Bu Amama. Attitude of latter caused by finding that he was losing prestige among tribes for his friendly disposition to the Algerian authorities .. .. .. .. | 114 |
| 196 | „ „ .. | 32 Tel. | 29, | Reported disgrace of Menebhi. Report of his dismissal probably unfounded .. .. | 114 |
| 197 | To Viscount Gough .. | 253 Very Conf. | 29, | Affairs in Morocco. Conversation with Baron Eckardstein. Serious apprehension of German Government respecting French designs upon country .. .. .. .. | 114 |
| 198 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 33 Tel. | 31, | Reported dismissal of Menebhi. Unfounded report. Menebhi will be appointed Grand Vizier on his arrival .. .. .. | 115 |
| 199 | To Sir E. Monson .. | 850 | 31, | Affairs in Morocco. Conversation with French Ambassador, who repudiates rumours as to presence of 90,000 French troops in the field .. .. .. .. | 115 |
| 200 | Sir E. Monson .. | 305 | 31, | Moroccan Embassy in Paris. Reports departure of, for St. Petersburgh. Incloses "Temps" respecting .. .. | 116 |
| 201 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 100 Confidential | 25, | Conflicts between French troops and tribes. Transmits letter addressed to Sultan by Shereef of Ain Shair district respecting .. | 116 |
| 202 | „ „ .. | 102 Confidential | 28, | Reported dismissal of Menebhi. Observations on, and opinion that it is most unlikdly .. | 117 |
| 203 | „ „ .. | 34 Tel. | Aug. 2, | Appointment of Menebhi as Grand Vizier. Gharnit will be appointed in conjunction with him .. .. .. .. | 118 |
| 204 | Sir E. Monson .. | 308 | 2, | Reported disgrace of Menebhi. Has received no confirmation of rumour owing to absence of Minister for Foreign Affairs .. .. | 119 |
| 205 | Sir F. Lascelles .. | 189 Confidential | July 30, | Reported disgrace of Menebhi. Dr. von Mühlberg views reports with some suspicion | 119 |
| 206 | Question asked in the House of Commons (Mr. Lough) | .. | Aug. 6, | Reported disgrace and arrest of Menebhi. According to information from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier reports are not correct . | 120 |
| 207 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 35 Tel. | 6, | Appointment of Menebhi as Chief Vizier. He has been quite restored to favour. Refers to No. 203 .. .. .. .. | 120 |
| 208 | Sir C. Scott .. | 216 | 4, | Arrival of Moorish Special Embassy. Reports | 120 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 209 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 36 Tel. | Aug. 7, 1901 | El Menebhi. Sultan has again turned against him, and his arrest is imminent .. .. | 120 |
| 210 | „ „ .. | 37 Tel. | 7, | Removal of Menebhi from his post. Is informed of by Sultan. Surmises that latter has changed his attitude towards England and Germany. Refers to Nos. 198 and 209 | 121 |
| 211 | „ „ .. | 38 Tel. | 7, | Disgrace of Menebhi. All that is possible has been done to assist him.. .. .. | 121 |
| 212 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 17 Tel. | 7, | El Menebhi. Surprise and concern of His Majesty's Government at news contained in No. 209 .. .. .. .. | 121 |
| 213 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 39 Tel. | 9, | El Menebhi. Has not yet been arrested. He will be kept in power for the present .. | 121 |
| 214 | „ „ .. | 103 | July 31, | El Menebhi. Information contained in letter from Dr. Verdon, English doctor at Sultan's Court .. .. .. .. | 122 |
| 215 | „ „ .. | 104 | 31, | Collision between French troops and men of Bu Amama. French authorities seem to desire to ignore it. Refers to No. 201 .. | 123 |
| 216 | „ „ .. | 40 Tel. | Aug. 13, | El Menebhi. Appears to have been again appointed Minister of War .. .. | 123 |
| 217 | „ „ .. | 41 Tel. Secret | 13, | El Menebhi. Wishes for a paper to prevent him being arrested owing to his holding a high English decoration .. .. | 123 |
| 218 | To Sir F. Lascelles .. | 182 Tel. | 13, | El Menebhi. Cannot give him document mentioned in No. 217. To ascertain views of German Government in case he should apply to Germany for similar paper .. | 124 |
| 219 | Sir M. Durand .. | 39 Tel. | 18, | Morocco question. Article attributed to Señor Silvela has appeared in the "Lectura," insisting upon necessity of Spain having a hand in settlement of .. .. .. | 124 |
| 220 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 107 | 7, | El Menebhi. Everything points to his having really fallen into disgrace. Transmits letter from Sultan respecting .. .. .. | 124 |
| 221 | „ „ .. | 108 | 13, | El Menebhi. Sultan has informed Kaïd Maclean that it was only the people who imagined Menebhi had been disgraced .. | 125 |
| 222 | „ „ .. | 109 Secret | 13, | El Menebhi. Amplifies No. 217 .. .. | 126 |
| 223 | Sir F. Lascelles .. | 202 Confidential | 16, | Morocco. Dr. von Mühlberg states that question is of far greater importance to England than to Germany .. .. | 127 |
| 224 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 111 | 14, | Projected attack by one of Sahara tribes against French frontier forces. Transmits letter from Menebhi, informing of measures taken by Moorish Government for preventing .. .. .. .. | 127 |
| 225 | Sir M. Durand .. | 68 | 16, | Morocco. Is informed by Duke of Almodovar that French Government have no intention of making any move at present .. .. | 128 |
| 226 | „ „ .. | 40 Tel. | 21, | Señor Silvela's article on Morocco question. Is subjected to severe criticism by press. Refers to No. 219 .. .. | 128 |
| 227 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 42 Tel. | 22, | El Menebhi. Sultan approves all his actions in London, and regrets his recent behaviour towards him .. .. .. .. | 128 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 228 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 112 | Aug. 18, 1901 | Abduction of two Spanish subjects in Morocco. Spanish Government will claim an indemnity for .. .. .. .. .. | 192 |
| 229 | „ „ .. | 113 Confidential | 20, | Frontier affairs in Morocco. Conversation with French Minister respecting .. .. | 129 |
| 230 | Sir C. Scott .. | 233 | 21, | Moorish Special Mission. Reports departure from St. Petersburgh .. .. .. | 130 |
| 231 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 44 Tel. | 26, | Arrangement respecting Morocco frontier. Details are being sent by bag .. .. | 130 |
| 232 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 78 | 27, | El Menebhi. Acknowledges receipt of No. 224. To express commendation of Menebhi's action .. .. .. | 131 |
| 233 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 45 Tel. | 27, | Telegraph line to coast. Moorish Government wish to put it up to public tender, which is to be deprecated, as French will probably underbid all competitors .. .. | 131 |
| 234 | Sir M. Durand .. | 41 Tel. | 28, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. Transmits message from Minister of State furnishing facts .. .. .. .. | 131 |
| 235 | To Sir M. Durand .. | 15 Tel. | 30, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. His Majesty's Government willing to join in representations in order to obtain the release of. Refers to No. 234.. .. .. | 131 |
| 236 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 22 Tel. | 30, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. Substance of No. 235 .. .. .. | 13 |
| 237 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 114 | 23, | El Menebhi. Sultan expresses regret at what has occurred in connection with .. .. | 132 |
| 238 | „ „ .. | 115 Confidential | 23, | El Menebhi. Probable reasons for Sultan's jealousy against. Gharnit's assertions are not to be relied upon .. .. .. | 132 |
| 239 | „ „ .. | 117 Confidential | 26, | Moorish Special Mission to Paris. Has succeeded in coming to arrangement respecting frontier with French Government.. .. | 134 |
| 240 | „ „ .. | 118 | 26, | Project of reforms. Has been drawn up by a special Council and approved by Sultan .. | 134 |
| 241 | „ „ .. | 119 | 26, | Tafilet tribes. Sultan is despatching a force of 2,000 to keep order among .. .. | 135 |
| 242 | „ „ .. | 120 | 27, | Telegraph line from Tangier to Mogador. Observations on desire of Moorish Government to establish .. .. .. | 135 |
| 243 | „ „ .. | 46 Tel. | Sept. 2, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. Proposals as to steps to be taken .. .. | 136 |
| 244 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 23 Tel. | 3, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. Agrees to suggestions in No. 243 .. .. | 136 |
| 245 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 47 Tel. | 6, | Telegraph line from Tangier to coast. Orders to offer construction, &c., to public tender cancelled by Sultan, who has issued instructions to ask that it should be undertaken by Germany. Refers to No. 233 .. .. | 137 |
| 246 | „ „ .. | 48 Tel. | 7, | Telegraph line to coast. Instructions to ask Germany to undertake construction have not yet reached Sultan's Deputy at Tangier .. | 137 |
| 247 | „ „ .. | 121 | Aug. 30, | Proposed reforms. Project has been enlarged, and is to be sent for communication to foreign Legations. Observations on collection of taxes .. .. .. .. | 137 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 248 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 122 | Aug. 31, 1901 | State of affairs in Morocco. General disorder. Improved position of the French .. .. | 138 |
| 249 | „ „ .. | 123 | Sept. 2, | Spanish subjects kidnapped. Conversation with Spanish and French Ministers respecting .. | 139 |
| 250 | „ „ .. | 124 | 3, | Customs Administrators. Have been changed at all the ports and new ones named without paying usual money consideration.. .. | 140 |
| 251 | „ „ .. | 15 Commercial | 3, | Exportation of fruit and vegetables from ports in Morocco. Sultan has issued orders for .. | 140 |
| 252 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 81 | 11, | El Menebhi. Sultan regrets his action towards | 140 |
| 253 | Sir M. Durand .. | 74 | 7, | Señor Silvela's article on Morocco. Transmits précis of. Refers to No. 219 .. .. | 140 |
| 254 | „ „ .. | 79 | 9, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. Conversation with Duke of Almodovar respecting | 142 |
| 255 | Post Office .. | Confidential | 11, | Establishment of telegraphic communication on coast of Morocco. Suggests that Eastern Telegraph Company might be made acquainted with situation. Fears of an extension of French Oran-Tangier cable westwards .. .. .. .. | 143 |
| 256 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 126 | 5, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Minister respecting .. | 143 |
| 257 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 83 | 16, | New Customs Administrators at Moorish ports. Expresses satisfaction at action of Government reported in No. 250 .. .. | 144 |
| 258 | „ „ .. | 84 | 18, | Tax collectors to be appointed from French, Germans, and English. Concurs in objections pointed out in No. 247 .. .. | 144 |
| 259 | „ „ .. | 86 | 20, | Spanish captives in Morocco. Approves language held in conversation reported in No. 256 .. .. .. .. | 144 |
| 260 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 127 | 10, | Deputations from the "Shorfa" of Tafilet to Sultan. Conversation with French Minister respecting .. .. .. .. | 145 |
| 261 | „ „ .. | 128 | 11, | New system of taxation. Commencement has been made with tribes round Morocco city .. | 145 |
| 262 | „ „ .. | 130 Confidential | 12, | Return of Ben-Sliman, Envoy to French and Russian Governments. Reports Sultan is satisfied with frontier arrangements .. | 146 |
| 263 | „ „ .. | 131 | 13, | Spanish captives in Morocco. Display of naval force in Moorish waters hinted at by Spanish Minister in connection with .. .. | 146 |
| 264 | „ „ .. | 132 | 16, | Spanish captives in Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Minister at meeting of Diplomatic Body convoked by him .. .. | 147 |
| 265 | „ „ .. | 133 | 18, | New scheme of taxation. Transmits translation of note addressed by Sultan's Deputy to foreign Legations at Tangier, also Memorandum on .. .. .. | 147 |
| 266 | „ „ .. | 134 Confidential | 20, | Rumoured conflict between Bu Amama and French forces. Transmits despatch from Vice-Consul at Fez respecting .. .. | 149 |
| 267 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 88 | 28, | Attitude of Tafilet and Berber tribes. Approves language reported in No. 260 .. .. | 151 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 268 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 89 | Sept. 28, 1901 | New system of taxation. To convey to Sultan satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at scheme for .. .. .. .. | 151 |
| 269 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 50 Tel. | Oct. 1, | El Menebhi. His position again uncertain owing to intrigues of reactionary party at Court .. .. .. .. | 151 |
| 270 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 92 | 2, | El Menebhi's position at Court. Concurs in opinion expressed in No. 269 that visit to Morocco city would just now be inexpedient | 151 |
| 271 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 135 | Sept. 24, | Position at Figuig and in north-east Morocco. Transmits despatch from Vice-Consul MacLeod respecting .. .. .. | 152 |
| 272 | „ „ .. | 136 | 28, | Coastwise trade in grain, &c. Transmits translation of note from Sultan's Deputy announcing issue of orders permitting it free of duty .. .. .. | 153 |
| 273 | „ „ .. | 137 | 28, | New scheme of taxation. Reports meeting of Diplomatic Body held to examine .. | 154 |
| 274 | „ „ .. | 139 Confidential | 29, | Telegraph lines down Moorish coast. Government hesitate to give contract exclusively to Germany .. .. .. | 155 |
| 275 | „ „ .. | 140 Confidential | Oct. 1, | Situation at Fez. Intrigues of Gharnit against El Menebhi .. .. .. .. | 155 |
| 276 | „ „ .. | 141 | 1, | Provincial Governors. Sultan has summoned three delegates from each village to convey instructions respecting .. .. .. | 156 |
| 277 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 93 | 9, | Coastwise trade in grain, &c. To express to Sultan satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at measures adopted. Refers to No. 272 .. .. .. .. | 157 |
| 278 | „ „ .. | 96 | 9, | New scheme of taxation. Approves of note addressed to Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting. Refers to No. 273 .. .. | 157 |
| 279 | „ „ .. | 97 | 9, | Proposed improvements in administration of Moorish prisons. To convey to Sultan satisfaction of His Majesty's Government and of England generally .. .. | 157 |
| 280 | „ „ .. | 98 | 9, | Position at Court of El Menebhi. Concurs in view that formal grant of protection to him would not be advisable. Refers to No. 275 | 157 |
| 281 | „ „ .. | 99 | 9, | Reforms in Administration. To express to Sultan satisfaction of His Majesty's Government. Refers to No. 276 .. .. | 158 |
| 282 | To Post Office .. | Confidential | 15, | Telegraph lines along coast of Morocco. Transmits No. 274 .. .. .. | 158 |
| 283 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 51 Tel. | 16, | Spanish subjects kidnapped in Morocco. Circular note has been addressed by Minister for Foreign Affairs to Legations respecting.. | 158 |
| 284 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 24 Tel. | 17, | Spanish captives in Morocco. To point out to Moorish Government risk of entering upon a campaign with mountain tribes for release of. Refers to No. 283 .. | 159 |
| 285 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 142 | 8, | Attack upon Portuguese subject at Fez. Transmits Vice-Consul MacLeod's No. 36 respecting .. .. .. .. | 159 |
| 286 | „ „ .. | 144 Confidential | 10, | El Menebhi. Communications with Sultan respecting his desire to remove him from his post .. .. .. .. | 161 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 287 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 145 | Oct. 12, 1901 | Spanish captives in Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Minister respecting .. .. | 161 |
| 288 | Sir E. Monson .. | 410 | 17, | Affairs in South Algeria. Transmits extract from "L'Afrique Française" of 15th October respecting .. .. .. .. | 162 |
| 289 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 52 Tel. | 19, | Spanish captives in Morocco. Proposed campaign against mountain tribes is matter of internal affairs .. .. .. | 163 |
| 290 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 104 | 23, | Position of El Menebhi. Approves language used in reply to Sultan. Refers to No. 287 .. .. .. .. | 163 |
| 291 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 148 | 17, | Spanish captives in Morocco. Transmits note from Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting liberation of .. .. .. .. | 163 |
| 292 | „ „ .. | 149 | 17, | Proposed punitive expedition against mountain tribes. Circular note has been addressed by Sultan's Deputy to foreign Representatives. Incloses copy of .. .. .. | 165 |
| 293 | „ „ .. | 150 | 18, | State of affairs in Morocco. Transmits extract from despatch No. 113 of Consul at Dar-el-Baida .. .. .. .. | 166 |
| 294 | „ „ .. | 151 | 19, | Abduction of Spanish captives. Conversation with Spanish Minister respecting. Transmits copy of note addressed by him to foreign Representatives .. .. .. | 167 |
| 295 | „ „ .. | 152 | 19, | Projected expedition against mountain tribes. Meeting of Diplomatic Body to examine note mentioned in No. 292 has been held .. | 168 |
| 296 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 25 Tel. | 29, | Spanish captives in Morocco. To convey message to Sultan in sense indicated in No. 284 .. .. .. .. | 169 |
| 297 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 53 Tel. | 30, | Spanish captives in Morocco. Has already communicated message for Sultan through private channel. Refers to No. 296 .. | 169 |
| 298 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 106 | 30, | Projected expedition against mountain tribes. Approves language held to foreign Representatives, as reported in No. 295 .. | 169 |
| 299 | Post Office .. | .. | 30, | Telegraph lines along coast of Morocco. Postmaster-General is hardly in a position to give an opinion on proposals in No. 282 .. | 170 |
| 300 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 154 | 25, | Districts of Upper Muluya Valley. Transmits Memorandum by Mr. White respecting .. | 170 |
| 301 | „ „ .. | 155 | 26, | Projected expedition against mountain tribes. Reports meeting of Diplomatic Body to discuss tenour of reply to note of Sultan's Deputy. Refers to No. 295 .. .. | 171 |
| 302 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 111 Confidential | Nov. 5, | Telegraph lines along Moorish coast. Transmits Nos. 255, 282, and 299 .. .. | 172 |
| 303 | „ „ .. | 26 Tel. | 6, | Spanish captives in Morocco. No objection to sending note to Minister for Foreign Affairs as proposed in No. 301.. .. .. | 172 |
| 304 | „ „ .. | 113 | 6, | Spanish captives in Morocco. Approves language held to Spanish Minister reported in No. 291 .. .. .. .. | 173 |
| 305 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 156 Confidential | Oct. 30, | Projected expedition against mountain tribes. Transmits copy of message to be conveyed to Sultan .. .. .. .. | 173 |





| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 306 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 157 | Oct. 31, 1901 | El Menebhi. Will be retained as Minister of War, but most of his functions have practically been transferred to Gharnit.. .. | 173 |
| 307 | „ „ .. | 158 Confidential | Nov. 1, | M. Lüderitz' appointment to reside with Court. Displeasure of Sultan with Menebhi for entering into arrangement at Berlin .. | 174 |
| 308 | „ „ .. | 159 | 2, | Projected expedition against mountain tribes. Government have reorganized .. .. | 175 |
| 309 | Sir E. Monson .. | 434 | 8, | Figuig question. Transmits article from "Dépêche Coloniale" respecting.. .. | 175 |
| 310 | Sir H. MacDonell .. | 67 | 8, | Attack upon Portuguese subject at Fez. Reports another case of similar nature. Refers to No. 285 .. .. .. | 178 |
| 311 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 118 Confidential | 13, | Projected expedition against mountain tribes. Approves message inclosed in No. 305 .. | 179 |
| 312 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 160 Confidential | 6, | Affairs on Algerian-Moorish frontier. Transmits Vice-Consul MacLeod's No. 36, Confidential, respecting .. .. .. | 179 |
| 313 | „ „ .. | 54 Tel. Confidential | 19, | Projected expedition against mountain tribes. Sultan entirely concurs with advice given .. | 180 |
| 314 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 119 | 20, | Assault on Portuguese subjects in Morocco. Transmits No. 310 .. .. .. | 180 |
| 315 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 162 | 11, | Allocution of Governor-General of Algeria to Chiefs of Doui Menia tribe. Transmits extract from "Réveil du Maroc" reporting | 181 |
| 316 | „ „ .. | 163 Confidential | 14, | Proposed cession of Cape Juby to Spain in lieu of Ifni. Conversation with Spanish Minister respecting .. .. .. .. | 181 |
| 317 | „ „ .. | 164 | 15, | Telegraph lines along Moorish coast. No more been heard of project. Refers to No. 274 .. .. .. .. | 182 |
| 318 | „ „ .. | 55 Tel. | 27, | Movements of Sultan. His Majesty will be at Rabat within a month .. .. .. | 182 |
| 319 | To Post Office .. | .. | 28, | Telegraph lines along Moorish coast. It will not be desirable to make any communication to Eastern Telegraph Company for the present .. .. .. .. | 182 |
| 320 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 27 Tel. | 30, | Reported attack on British Vice-Consulate at Tetuan. Requests information respecting | 182 |
| 321 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 56 Tel. | 30, | Reported attack on British Vice-Consulate at Tetuan. Furnishes information respecting. Refers to No. 320 .. .. .. | 183 |
| 322 | „ „ .. | 165 | 19, | Conference between Governor-General of Algeria and Chiefs of Doui Menia and Ouled Djerir. Information from Vice-Consul at Fez respecting .. .. | 183 |
| 323 | „ „ .. | 166 Confidential | 20, | Desire of Sultan to raise loan in London, Berlin, and Paris. It would be chiefly devoted to railways and administrative expenses .. .. .. .. | 183 |
| 324 | „ „ .. | 167 | 23, | Expedition against mountain tribes. Reports departure of from Morocco city .. .. | 184 |
| 325 | „ „ .. | 168 | 23, | Visit of Moorish Frontier Commission to Algiers. French cruiser has arrived to convey them. Sultan is vexed at speech reported in No. 315 .. .. .. | 184 |

| No. | Name. | No. | Date. | Subject. | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 326 | To Sir A. Nicolson .. | 123 Confidential | Dec. 2, 1901 | Proposed exchange with Spanish Government of Ifni for Cape Juby. Approves language held in conversation reported in No. 316 .. | 185 |
| 327 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 169 | Nov. 27, | Movements of Sultan. Reports His Majesty's departure from Morocco city and intention to visit Rabat .. .. .. | 185 |
| 328 | „ „ .. | 172 | 28, | El Menebhi. He is rapidly regaining Sultan's confidence, and is permitted to exercise all the functions of Minister of War .. | 186 |
| 329 | „ „ .. | 173 Confidential | 28, | Visit of Moorish Frontier Commission to Algeria. Information given to Mr. Irwin by its head .. .. .. .. | 186 |
| 330 | „ „ .. | 177 | Dec. 10, | Intention of His Majesty's Minister to proceed to Rabat to present his new credentials. Submits names of staff whom he proposes to take .. .. .. .. | 187 |
| 331 | Consul-General Newton | 7 Confidential | 13, | Unsettled state of Moorish frontier. Quotes from private letter from Vice-Consul at Oran respecting .. .. .. | 187 |
| 332 | Sir A. Nicolson .. | 174 | 6, | Spanish captives in Morocco. His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rabat reports departure of expedition for the release of .. .. | 188 |
| 333 | „ „ .. | 176 | 6, | Reported attack on British Vice-Consulate at Tetuan. Transmits copy of despatch from Vice-Consul there respecting .. .. | 188 |
| 334 | „ „ .. | 178 | 11, | Reported attack on British Vice-Consulate at Tetuan. Whole affair has been much exaggerated .. .. .. .. | 189 |
| 335 | „ „ .. | 179 | 15, | Visit of Sultan to Dar-el-Baida. Transmits two despatches from Consul Maclean respecting .. .. .. .. | 189 |
| 336 | „ „ .. | 180 | 15, | Arrival of Sultan at Rabat. Reports with details of journey from Morocco city .. | 191 |
| 337 | „ „ .. | 182 Confidential | 17, | Spain and Morocco. Conversation with Spanish Minister respecting .. .. .. | 191 |
| 338 | „ „ .. | 183 | 18, | Issue of semsars' certificates. Transmits copies of correspondence with London Chamber of Commerce respecting .. | 193 |
| 339 | „ „ .. | 184 | 24, | Slave Trade in Morocco. Transmits copies of correspondence with Secretary of Anti-Slavery Society respecting .. .. | 194 |


*Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February* 1902.

CONFIDENTIAL.

# Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Morocco.

## Part 21.

### No. 1.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 4.)*

(No. 151.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 26, 1900.

CID BENASSER GHANNAM, one of the Sultan's Commissioners, called on me yesterday to discuss some current affairs of minor importance; but before taking his departure he spoke to me in regard to the French movements on the south-eastern frontier, and asked if I thought it would be desirable if a Mixed Commission of Moorish and European officials should proceed to the localities in order to ascertain the precise extent of recent French encroachments and to lay down some frontier-line in those regions. So far as I could gather, Cid Benasser Ghannam wished that the "European officials" should be British.

I told his Excellency that it seemed to me that any Frontier Commission could be composed solely of French and Moorish officials, and that it would be necessary in the first place for the Moorish Government to procure the co-operation of the French Government in any procedure of the nature suggested by him. Any Commission acting under other conditions, could lead to no practical results, and, indeed, would probably do more harm than good.

Cid Benasser Ghannam then asked whether, supposing the Moorish Government did induce the French Government to accede to a Joint Commission, and that the Joint Commission established that some of the districts recently occupied by the French did in reality form part of the Sultan's dominions, the French authorities would in such case return those districts to His Majesty.

I explained to Cid Benasser Ghannam that the French Government had consistently maintained that Tuat and the other occupied districts did not form part of the Sultan's dominions, and had also asserted that they had no intention of encroaching on undoubtedly Moorish territory. I could not imagine that at this hour they were likely to recede from the above position, and their declarations as to their unwillingness to disturb the *status quo* should, in my opinion, be considered as satisfactory.

Cid Benasser Ghannam contended that the French had occupied Figuig, a distinct Moorish possession as laid down in the 1845 Treaty. I said that I was unaware that Figuig was in French hands, though I knew French outposts were in its close neighbourhood; and he rejoined that he did not allude to the town of Figuig, but to the Figuig district in which Igli was situated, and this had been occupied by the French.

As the conversation was becoming a somewhat embarrassing one, I did not encourage Cid Benasser Ghannam to prolong it, and he concluded with the observation that he feared that in this question "might was right."

I am unaware whether Cid Benasser Ghannam had been commissioned to sound me on the subject. I am of opinion that this was not the case, as I understand that the Sultan is satisfied with the communications which recently passed on the subject of French movements on the frontier. Nevertheless, I have ventured to report to your Lordship the substance of the conversation with the Sultan's Commissioner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 2.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received January* 4, 1901.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 28, 1900.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 105 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that I have heard nothing as to an intention on the part of the Sultan to send a Mission to France, as reported in the article from "La France Militaire," of which a summary was sent to me in your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I believe there is a desire on the part of the Moorish Government to dispatch a complimentary Mission to St. Petersburgh in response to the visit rendered by the Russian Minister to the Moorish Court in the spring of last year, and, if this desire be realized, it is possible that the Moorish Envoy would travel by way of Paris. The wish of the Moorish Government has, so far as I am aware, not yet taken any definite form, and I will endeavour to ascertain if it is still being seriously entertained.

I would submit that the remainder of the article in "La France Militaire" deserves attention, as it is quite true that if the goodwill and support of the Chief of the Zaonia of Muley Idris at Fez were secured by France a powerful ally would be obtained for any ulterior action.

At the same time I have seen no indication that the Sultan is at all desirous of placing himself under French protection, and I differ from the writer of the article in considering that the present moment would be a favourable one for approaching His Majesty on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 3.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received January* 4, 1901.)

(No. 153.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 28, 1900.

I NOTICE in the issue of "Le Temps" of the 24th instant an apparently authentic account of the negotiations which led up to the submission of the powerful Chief Bu Amama to the French Algerian authorities, and to the grant of French protection to him.

This personage, who exercises great influence throughout the Figuig and Tuat districts, has for time past been considered by the Court, as reported in my despatch No. 84 of the 5th June last, as of doubtful loyalty to the Sultan, though I had been unable to state positively that there were good grounds for suspecting him. He appears to have played a hesitating and double game, and finally to have thrown in his lot with France.

The step is a serious one, and may have important consequences, especially if it be true, as stated by "Le Temps," that Bu Amama has secured the adhesion of the Chiefs of the powerful tribes of Boni Menia and Ouled Djevid. These tribes form a wedge between Tafilelt and Figuig, and if they were also to submit to France, it is, I think, quite possible that before long other tribes would follow their example, and French authority would thus extend far into South-Eastern Morocco.

In face of such a situation, the Sultan would be in a difficult position; and it could be contended by the French authorities that they had not initiated any disturbance of the *status quo*, but had merely accepted the submission and services voluntarily tendered by Chiefs over whom the authority of His Majesty was evidently ineffective. I will make inquiries in trustworthy quarters, in the hope of being able to give fuller information on the subject; and to my mind the step taken by Bu Amama and his coadjutors is the most significant and pregnant incident that has occurred since the development of French activity on the Moorish frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 4.

*Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received January* 7.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January* 5, 1901.

THE "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" of the 3rd instant, in referring to the fact that the Sultan of Morocco has satisfied the three principal German claims, says that Baron von Mentzingen's report states that the arrest of the four persons suspected of the murder of the semsar, or German Commercial Agent, El Mekki, has been ordered, and that the examination of the accused will be made in conjunction with the German Consul at Casablanca, and the Sultan will fix the penalties to be awarded.

The Government of Morocco has also agreed to pay 10,451 douros compensation, equal to 1,622*l.*, for the illegal arrest of a mochalet of the merchant Dannenberg.

The Government has further agreed to pay, in expiation of the outrages of the Kaïd Berreschid of Ulad Haris against a semsar of the German merchant H. Ficke, the sum of 12,903 douros, equal to 2,003*l.*, as compensation, and 10,000 douros, equal to 1,552*l.*, as a fine. The guilty Kaïd, his brother, and son were further severely reprimanded by the Sultan; and other minor penalties were inflicted and precautions are to be taken to avoid the recurrence of the outrages complained of.

It is stated that the other claims, in so far as they are demands for money, will be settled by Morocco paying the total sum of 46,269 douros, equal to 7,184*l.*, to the persons concerned, while those claims in which there is no question of money, will be settled by Morocco complying with the whole of the demands.

In conclusion, the semi-official journal takes note with satisfaction of the friendly dispositions of the Sultan of Morocco towards the German Envoy, and hopes that the wish expressed by the Sultan during the negotiations, for the restoration of untroubled relations between the German Empire and Morocco, will be fulfilled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

---

No. 5.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 11, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 151 of the 26th ultimo, giving an account of your conversation with Cid Benasser Ghannam, during which he raised the question of the movements of the French on the south-eastern frontier of Morocco, and the desirability of the appointment of a Mixed Commission to ascertain the extent of the encroachments, and to lay down a frontier-line in those regions.

The language held by you, as recorded in that despatch, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 6.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 5, 1901.

HER Majesty's Minister at Paris in his despatch No. 600 of the 5th ultimo forwarded to your Lordship a Memorandum by Mr. O'Beirne, giving some information in regard to the Figuig oasis and the neighbouring tribes. The Memorandum is of interest, and, if I may be permitted to say so, clearly and succinctly drawn up; but there are some points in it on which I would ask your Lordship's permission to make a few remarks.

Mr. O'Beirne states that in a confidential map drawn in 1843, Figuig is placed considerably on the Algerian side of the border. I have not had the advantage of seeing a copy of this map; but in the French Staff Map of 1848, published therefore subsequently to the Treaty of 1845, Figuig is well within the Moorish frontier, and not

only Figuig, but also Tuat and other districts recently occupied by the French, are assigned to Morocco.

This staff map is considered by the Moorish Government as affording strong evidence of Tuat having been deemed, even by French official authorities, as pertaining to the Sultan of Morocco.

The Memorandum further speaks of Figuig as being, and as having been, practically independent. It is true that the authority of the Sultan over many of the districts in his dominions is somewhat fluctuating, expanding and contracting according to varying circumstances and conditions; but in Figuig, so far as my information goes, his authority has been recognized fairly continuously. Of late years, in any case, he has had administrative and executive officers established there; and though the obedience of the tribes has not been always very loyal, still I think I am justified in stating that the Sultan has been considered by them as their overlord.

The Memorandum further states that the Ouled Djerir are a branch of the great tribe of Hamian, and that all the Hamian, with the exception of the Hamian Djeuba, are by Treaty under the dominion of Algeria. I have been informed that the Ouled Djerir are not Hamian, but are a branch of the Doui Menia; and if this be correct, there can be no doubt as to their being under Moorish domination.

The Memorandum also states that the French Colonial press considers that as Ain Chair is not mentioned in the Treaty, and as its possession would be of utility, it should be occupied.

Ain Chair is to the westward of Figuig, and is undoubtedly in Moorish territory. The fact of it not being mentioned in the Treaty can hardly be advanced as a reason for considering it as an unowned property. Many places are not mentioned in the Treaty, probably owing to there being no question as to whom they belonged.

I have ventured to make these remarks, not with any desire to criticize Mr. O'Beirne's paper, but to offer a few observations from another point of view. These observations are, moreover, of a merely academical character, as I agree with the concluding remarks of Mr. O'Beirne that Figuig, and probably other districts also, will before long be absorbed into the Algerian dominions; but this will be brought about by political and military necessities, as well as by tribal secessions from Moorish dominion, and not by the operation of Treaty stipulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 7.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 12.)*

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 7, 1901.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 152 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I find I was mistaken in attributing an influential position to the Chief or Mukuddum of the Zaowia of Muly Idris at Fez, whose adhesion to the French cause had been strongly urged by the journal "La France Militaire." I was under the impression that the personage in question held a similar position, less in degree but the same in kind, to the Shereef of Wazzan. Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, however, to whom I addressed inquiries on the subject, gives me the following information:—

"The post of Chief of the Zaowia is a dignified office, and the Mukuddum is a worthy man, but he is merely the steward appointed by the Sultan to collect and distribute the revenues of the 'Shereefs.' He is not himself a Shereef, and neither personally nor officially a man of any influence or great note.

"Each sept of Shereefs (Drisi, Alowi, Tahri, &c.) has a 'Meywar,' sometimes a Shereef and sometimes not, who is appointed by the Sultan, and is removable by him at any time. His duty is to settle disputes among the respective Shereefs, and when any of them are in trouble with the authorities, to be present and see that no injustice is done to them. But the Meywar has no kind of general or tribal influence beyond the limited power conferred on him by the Sultan, nor has any sept of Shereefs a Chief, who is, like the Shereef of Wazzan, the Shereef *par excellence*, whom the others of his kin are bound to follow."



As Mr. Macleod is an authority on this subject, I readily accept his correction It would then appear that even if the co-operation of the personage in question were secured to the French cause, the consequences would not be of the importance anticipated by "La France Militaire."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 8.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 12.)*

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Paris, January 10, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a report which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, on the movements and composition of the relief column for South Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 8.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Paris, January 9, 1901.*

IT is announced this morning that the column designated "for the relief of and installation of posts in South Algeria," will leave El Golea on the 12th instant.

Besides administrative, medical, engineer, and telegraph services, it will comprise eight companies, *i.e.*, two of African Light Infantry, one of Saharian Tirailleurs, and five of Algerian Tirailleurs. One company of the latter will be left at Fort MacMahon and one at Fort Miribel.

The column is also provided with two sections of mountain artillery, and will be covered during its advance by half a squadron of Spahis and a half squadron of Chasseurs d'Afrique.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

---

No. 9.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 15.)*

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Paris, January 13, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting the relief expeditions in Southern Algeria.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of the Ambassador),
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

---

Inclosure in No. 9.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Paris, January 12, 1901.*

IT is reported that motives of economy, and scarcity of means for transport, have dictated a considerable modification of the programme for the occupation of the Saharian oases.

It has been decided to effect the relief and installation of posts almost exclusively with native troops, and in much smaller numbers than originally intended.

The strength of the force has been reduced from 1,750 to 650 men, and consequently the expense from 3,000,000 fr. to 1,300,000 fr. The force confided to General Servière will only consist of two sections of the 1st African Battalion, two-and-a-half companies of Saharian Tirailleurs, four peletons of Saharian Spahis, two sections of artillery, and one "goum" of 100 mounted men, and 3,000 camels.

The force will march in two columns, starting, one from Ain Sefra, the other from El Golea. They are to join hands at Timmimoum, in the centre of the Touat, and there to effect the relief the garrisons, which have been holding it for the past year.

General Servière has asked for the creation of a third company of Saharian Tirailleurs, to be quartered at Adrar.

These dispositions have no connection with the Djemen-bar-Rezg and Igli operations, which have been deferred for a short period during the temporary absence of the Governor-General. The military press urges that the submission of Bou-Amama must not in any way interfere with the long planned expedition for the relief and reinforcement of the Igli force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
*Military Attaché.*

---

No. 10.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 15, 1901.

THE French Ambassador referred to-day to the extension of French influence over certain tribes on the confines of Morocco, in the region of Touat.

The country of these tribes had, his Excellency told me, been used by the Touaregs as a basis for their operations: one of these tribes had now willingly come in on the invitation of a scientific explorer who had visited the country. Our interests, M. Cambon said, in this part of the world, were obviously concerned with the coast-line rather than with the interior; he thought, however, that it might be desirable one of these days that we should arrive at an understanding as to certain boundaries which were still undecided.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 11.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January* 21.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 13, 1901.

A TRAVELLER who has recently returned from Tafilelt and Figuig has given me some information in regard to the condition of affairs in those districts which may be of interest. My informant is a native of Tafilelt, and travelled from Ain Shair to Figuig and thence viâ Igli to Tafilelt. He left the latter place about two months since. When he was at Figuig the French posts were only within an hour's distance from that oasis, and Bou Amama was at that time advising the tribes to take such defensive measures as were possible.

The people of Figuig, he found, were not indisposed to admit the French, but were prevented, at that time, from doing so by the influence of Bou Amama. Further south the large tribe of the Doui Menia, of whom the Ouled Djerir, he stated, were a branch, were disheartened by recent events, and were debating whether it would be prudent to submit to the French authorities. Any such step on their part would, my informant considered, be followed by their brethren, the Ouled Djerir. It appears that the Doui Menia had encountered the French forces at Zafrani on the River Dermel, and having suffered considerable losses, had retired to Tafilelt. Instead of finding a hospitable refuge in that oasis, they had been pillaged and attacked by the tribes in that locality, and had wandered back to their own territories. They were now undecided as to what their future course of action should be.

I mentioned to my informant that French journals had announced that Bou Amama had made his submission to the Algerian authorities; and I asked him, if this proved to be



No. 11*.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January* 21.)

(No. 1. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 21, 1901.

A LETTER has reached me addressed to the Queen by the Sultan in which a fresh appeal is made in consequence of the French tampering with the loyalty of the tribes on the frontier, and of renewed encroachments. In view of the grave condition of Her Majesty's health I would suggest that the Sultan should be informed that it would be ill-timed to transmit His Majesty's letter now. By the next bag I will forward a translation of the letter, for the information of your Lordship, and until I hear again from the Sultan I would retain the original letter if my proposal be accepted.

---

the case, what effect it would have on the Doui Menia and other tribes in the vicinity. I explained that this submission would have taken place some time after his visit to Figuig. The news was evidently a surprise to him; and he was very positive, in his opinion, that the defection of Bou Amama would promptly lead to the submission to the Algerian authorities of all the tribes between Figuig and Tafilelt.

At Tafilelt he had found considerable diversity of opinion. Mouley Errashid, the uncle of the Sultan, was loyal to the cause of his nephew, and was supported by the Ait Atta and the Beni Mehemed tribes, as well as by all the "Shoorfa" or Shereefs. On the other hand, the Ifalat, Aht Sebbah, and Ait Yafelma tribes, and one or two minor communities, were of doubtful loyalty.

If the French were to attack Tafilelt, he had little doubt that all the tribes would unite to resist them; but there was a large party who were discontented with the orders which Mouley Errashid had received from the Sultan to prevent any attacks on the French forces. Mouley Errashid had informed the tribes that His Majesty was engaged in negotiations for the peaceable evacuation by the French of Igli and other recently occupied districts, and, pending the course of these negotiations, they were to abstain from all acts of hostility. The malcontent tribes were, however, becoming impatient, and saw no sign of any intention on the part of the French to retire from their new possessions. They were, therefore, doubtful as to the value of the assurances of the Sultan, and were also debating whether it would not be wiser to make friends with the nation which evidently was the more powerful and the more enterprising. Here again the attitude of Bou Amama would have great importance, and would largely influence the action of the malcontent population of Tafilelt.

I am of opinion that my informant gave me trustworthy information, and was anxious to present me with a true and faithful account of the situation. He is an intelligent man, and has an accurate and personal knowledge of Tafilelt and the surrounding districts. It is evident, I would submit, that the defection of Bou Amama from the cause of the Sultan would have considerable results, and would largely extend the sphere of French influence.

I may add that my informant stated that the Sultan had authorities established at Figuig, but that Ain Shair was practically independent, and declined to receive any Government official from the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 12.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received February 4.*)

(No. 6. Confidential.)

*Tangier, January* 15, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE been privately informed from Morocco city that the Sultan and his Government are again much disquieted in regard to French movements on the Algerian frontier, and are perplexed and anxious as to the ultimate objects which the French authorities have in view. So far as I have been able to ascertain, no confirmation of the submission of Bu Amama to the French has been received either at Fez or Morocco city. At the Court, nevertheless, it is considered probable that Bu Amama has made terms with the French; and the Sultan, I hear, is of opinion that the stringent orders which he dispatched to the tribes to abstain from molesting the French forces may have inclined the former to be ready to accept any conditions which the latter may be disposed to offer. This view may be a true one, and it is similar to that mentioned by my Tafilelt informant, the report of whose journey I summarized in my despatch No. 5 of the 13th instant. At the same time, had the tribes proceeded to acts of hostility against the French, the consequences would probably have been more serious than those with which the present situation has to deal.

I took an opportunity to-day, during a conversation with the French Minister, of alluding to the account given in the "Temps" of the submission of Bu Amama. M. Révoil treated the matter as of no great importance, and professed little confidence in any steps which might be taken by Bu Amama. He considered this personage as a shifty time-server on whom no reliance could be placed. He admitted that his influence was great, and he thought that it would be wise on the part of the French authorities to

utilize his present friendly disposition in the way of keeping the tribes quiet and allowing the peaceable prosecution of the railway and other enterprises which the French had in contemplation in the neighbourhood of Figuig.

M. Révoil said he presumed the recent step of Bu Amama would give rise to much perturbation in the minds of the Sultan and his Government; and he regretted that His Majesty and his Counsellors appeared incapable of comprehending that France had no sinister designs against Morocco. A child, he added, should understand that if France had any hostile intentions she would not attempt to carry them into execution from that part of the frontier. He thus repeated what M. Delcassé stated to Her Majesty's Ambassador last autumn.

There is little probability that any hostile action against Morocco is intended or desired; but I would venture to express the opinion that before long French influence, if not French authority, will quietly displace that possessed by the Sultan throughout the region south of the Atlas, possibly even Tafilelt itself. What effect this new development will produce north of the Atlas, and generally throughout Morocco, I would hesitate to predict; but I doubt if it will assist in consolidating and strengthening the Sultan's position or in insuring internal peace and tranquillity.

The Moorish Government are, I think, quite alive to the probabilities of the future, and are anxious to avert, if possible, what is impending by obtaining the co-operation of the French Government in laying down a well defined frontier-line between Morocco and Algeria. This is, however, a desire which the French authorities, I understand, are in no wise disposed to meet, as they prefer to leave the southern boundaries of Morocco vague and undefined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 13.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 4.)*

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 15, 1901.

IT is with pleasure that I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Sultan has decided to appoint a Committee of Moorish officials in each town to inspect the prisons with a view of examining into the cases of those under detention, and of placing the prisons in a cleanly and sanitary condition. It was at first proposed to send a visiting committee from Morocco city, but considerable difficulty was, I am informed, experienced in selecting competent and trustworthy men at the capital.

I would submit that this measure, on the part of His Majesty, merits approval and encouragement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 14.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 4.)*

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 15, 1901.

THE Sultan's Deputy here has sent a circular note to the Foreign Representatives informing them that the Sultan has been pleased to appoint Cid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to be Minister of Foreign Affairs. This functionary was formerly one of the late Grand Vizier's Secretaries and is an amiable and intelligent man.

Hadj Mokhtar, who was for a time nominally Grand Vizier, has been made Minister of the Interior, and the post of Grand Vizier no longer exists.

It is of advantage that a Foreign Minister has been appointed, as there is now some recognized authority at the Court with whom to correspond. Since the death of the Grand Vizier the Foreign Representatives had been requested to deal with the Sultan's Deputy here; but as this personage has little authority, and is, moreover, hampered by a Council of ten functionaries, whose relations with each other are not at all harmonious, the conduct of current business was practically impossible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



## No. 15*.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 4.)*

(No. 10. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 22, 1901.

I RECEIVED yesterday a communication from Kaid Maclean, inclosing a letter addressed by the Sultan to the Queen, and asking me to forward it without delay to its high destination.

In view of the grave condition of Her Majesty's health, I ventured to suggest to your Lordship that I should explain to the Sultan that the transmission of his letter would, at the present moment, be inopportune; and having had the honour to receive your Lordship's concurrence with this proposal, I have conveyed to the Sultan, in suitable terms, the reasons which have induced me to delay giving immediate effect to his wishes.

I beg leave to transmit copy of a translation which accompanied the letter. I have been unable to compare the translation with the original, as the letter was in a sealed packet; but I am told it is an accurate rendering.

The Sultan expresses the hope that I shall soon be furnished with the instructions which were promised in Her Majesty's reply to his former communication. I would wish to remark that these instructions were forwarded to me in Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 92, Secret, of the 24th October last, and were communicated by me privately to the Sultan. His Majesty expressed his satisfaction with the communication which I had been empowered to convey, as reported in my despatch No. 140 of the 22nd November last. I do not, therefore, understand what instructions are now expected, but I am inclined to think that the Sultan being desirous of finding some plausible reason for again addressing the Queen, assumed for this purpose that my instructions were still outstanding. The point, in any case, is not of importance.

It is unnecessary for me to trouble your Lordship with any observations on the general tenour of the letter, as the question of transmitting a reply does not at present arise; I merely forward the translation for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

### Inclosure in No. 15*.

*Précis of His Shereefian Majesty's Letter to Her Majesty the Queen.*

AFTER most elaborate compliments and reiterating the contents of the Queen's letter, it goes on to say:—

For many months we have been most anxiously waiting for your Gracious Majesty's promised instructions to your Majesty's noble and clever Minister, Sir Arthur Nicolson, which instructions we are sure will contain all we long for and desire. For many generations we have been great and mutual friends, and we know that our friendship is now stronger than ever, and that your Gracious Majesty's instructions will be a sure proof of this.

The Algerian troops are still active and have further encroached on our territory. Their Generals do all in their power to entice our tribes near Tafilelt and Figuig to accept protection from them. When our Chiefs remonstrate with the Generals and warn them that they are intruding on our dominions and refuse to accept their proposals, the Generals tell our Chiefs that we have no frontier, and state that the French will punish the Chiefs and use force if the terms offered are not accepted. On account of this the danger of a disturbance is daily increasing. The tribes are in such an unsettled state that they are unable to attend to their farms and business. On account of these actions of the Generals, this Empire has no confidence in the promises of the French Government. How is it possible for us to be silent seeing what is happening, and while the French are at every point attacking and robbing us?

The entire commerce between Fez and Tafilelt is stopped, and the merchants of Fez can nowhere else buy the goods they bought at Tafilelt, and these merchants are closely connected in business with English merchants.

We are sure that it is impossible for the friendly Powers to remain passive over this grave situation; it must raise their wrath, and surely they will be willing to search for some

way to procure us justice and define a clearly-marked frontier to be accepted and assured now and in the future, and which both parties must respect, neither taking any advantage.

We tell you all that is happening so that your answer may soon reach us, and before something occurs too serious for remedy, and to stop the difficulties which every day draw more closely about us.

After our implicit orders to our people not to fight or interfere in any way with the French, what could they do when the French came with force, but accept their terms until such time as we are able to obtain justice for their great and irrefutable grievances.

The giving of such orders has encouraged the French to approach, and what are our poor people to do? How must they feel; what condition could be more pitiable than theirs? And if this continues and we are unable to relieve them, no one can blame them if they lose their head and in the heat of passion forget all commands.

We are now anxiously waiting for the promised instructions, in which we have all trust, and we know that your most Gracious Majesty will do all your most Gracious Majesty can to help us, and we also know that this will be kept secret.

---



No. 15.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received February* 4.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 15, 1901.

I AM informed that, in all probability, the Sultan will this spring transfer his residence from Morocco city to Fez. I trust that this intention will be carried into effect, as it would be of advantage from every point of view if His Majesty would reside at his northern capital, from which the Court has now been absent for a long time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 16.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 8, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 7 of the 15th ultimo, stating that the Sultan has decided to appoint a Committee of Moorish officials in each town who will be intrusted with the duty of placing the prisons in a sanitary condition, and of examining into the cases of the prisoners.

I request that you will express to the Moorish Government the satisfaction with which His Majesty's Government have heard of this step on the part of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 17.

*Mr. H. H. Quirk to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received February* 13.)

*Suffolk House, Cannon Street, London,*
My Lord, *February* 12, 1901.

REFERRING to the Notification by the Spanish Government of the extension of Spanish protection over certain territories on the North-west Coast of Africa, dated the 9th January, 1895, and to the Spanish Decree placing those territories under the charge of the Spanish Governor-General of the Canary Islands, dated the 6th April, 1887, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that a Concession was granted in the year 1884 by Muhammad, son of Ahmad-al-Ayyedda, King of Adrar, and Wald Beyrock, King of Tekna, to Muhammad-el-Sabbar, a copy of which I inclose herewith.

This Concession has recently been assigned by Mohammed-el-Sabbar to me. The Spanish Notification of the 9th January, 1885, expressly stated that the action of the Spanish Government was "without prejudice to the existing proved rights of third parties," and was accepted by Her Majesty's Government in that sense.

I should, therefore, be glad to be informed if His Majesty's Government considers it necessary that the consent of the Spanish, or any other Government, be obtained before dispatching an expedition which I propose to send out in the near future, under the terms of this Charter, to the Rio de Oro, or any other portion of the territories belonging to the Kings or Chiefs of Adrar Settuf or Adrar Temar.

Awaiting the favour of an early reply, I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY H. QUIRK.

---

Inclosure in No. 17.

*Concession granted in the Year* 1884.

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate. May the blessing of God be upon our Lord Mohammed, the best of mankind, and the Seal of Apostles.

WHEREAS this a covenant between us we, Muhammad, the son of Ahmad-al-Ayedda, and Wald Beyrock and our friend Muhammad-al-Sabbar.

May God be gracious to us and to him, and to all believers.

Firstly, we, the above named, being in a state of independence in our territory and amongst our tribes, having no Ruler over us except God alone, and having complete possession and full power to concede to whomsoever of men we please the permission to enter our territory and our settlements, have conceded to our dear friend Muhammad-al-Sabbar that he, his partners, his servants, or whomsoever he may appoint, may enter our territory for the purpose of trading or working the mines that exist therein (we having absolute possession and sovereignty) wheresoever and whensoever they may please during the continuance of the period granted to them, which last shall extend for twenty-one years from the date of this covenant. And we take upon ourselves during all this period above mentioned that we will prevent any person whatsoever beside them from entering our territory for the purpose of trading or working the mines, of whatsoever country or nation he be, except in the case that the above-named Muhammad-al-Sabbar and partners shall have decided to leave our country before the expiration of the period granted to them as above specified. And we have conceded also and granted and given permission to the above-named Muhammad-al-Sabbar, his partners and agents, to build houses to dwell in, and magazines and warehouses to store their supplies and merchandize in, in whatsoever place they may deem suitable or necessary for the same, without hindrance of interference from any one either by sea or land. And we have conceded to them also and granted and given them our permission to build a jetty or jetties for shipping merchandize and landing supplies whenever it may be necessary. And we also conceded to them the power to drive a railway from the jetty or jetties to the localities of the mines which they may wish to work in order to facilitate the conveyance of the ores therefrom to the sea-shore, and for the purpose of trade also if the same should be necessary or convenient to them or to us. And the above Muhammad-al-Sabbar and his partners shall have the right to build and establish harbours on the sea for the purpose of sheltering the vessels and ships and to protect and preserve them from hurricanes, storms, and heavy winds whenever they may arise, and from the violence of the sea when it is in a state of disturbance and agitation during the winter season.

Secondly, we have given to our friend Muhammad-al-Sabbar, his partners, agents, and servants a solemn promise by God and his Prophet (may God bless him and give him peace) that we will neither molest them ourselves, nor permit any one else to molest them, or injure them or their property in any place or at any time under any conditions or circumstances during the whole period of their stay in our territory under our protection and in covenant with us. And whoever shall annoy, injure, or insult them shall make restitution in accordance with his offence and his desert, whether he belong to tribes that are in our country and under our authority or to tribes under the authority of other Chiefs, whether they be near us or far away from us.

Thirdly, the above-named Muhammad-al-Sabbar and his partners have undertaken upon themselves that at the expiration of the above-mentioned period which has been granted to them (namely, twenty-one years) to deliver over to us whatever building they may have erected, whether dwelling-houses or warehouses and magazines for merchandize and supplies or jetties and harbours, &c., and they shall not keep possession of any of them, nor shall they have the right to lay their hands upon any of them, nor shall they make any claim upon them or of their value a single farthing, except in the case that they may have wished to renew this covenant a second time, when they may make use of them until they depart from our territory.

Fourthly, the above-named Muhammad-al-Sabbar and his partners have undertaken to pay of their own money to us the sum of 300*l.* at the end of every lunar month on account of our kindness and friendship and of the permission which we have given to the said Muhammad-al-Sabbar and his partners to enter our territory and settlements and trade therein and work the mines thereof in accordance with the conditions agreed upon between us and them until the termination of the above-mentioned period, the duration



of which shall be twenty-one years from the date of this covenant. And we have granted permission and have accepted and agreed to these conditions with the above-named Muhammad-al-Sabbar and his partners, and we have given them a solemn promise by God and his Prophet—a promise which may neither be altered nor changed even should the Heavens themselves be altered and the earth be changed. And we call God to witness against ourselves herein, for He is the best of witnesses, the most generous of benefactors, and the bountiful of givers to those that ask. Amen. Amen. Amen.

(Signed) O LORD OF THE WORLD.

(Seal.) (Seal.)

---

*Translation of the Power of Attorney from the High Priest of Adrar, North-west Africa, to Sheik Muhammad-al-Sabbar, for him to negotiate to establish a Trading and Mining Company.*

(Signed) MAL AYNINE.

(Seal of Sheikh-el-Islam (Holy Man)). (Seal.)

Praise be to God the Lord of the World, and His peace to our Lord Mohammad, the last of the Prophets.

Let it be known to them all, Mahommedans and Christians, who see this that Al-Sabbar was known to us twelve years ago, and he is the dearest friend and loved by us as much as one of our sons. We therefore ask all those who desire our friendship and help to treat him with all kindness, support him in his wants, and help him in all his business, whensoever and wherever he is in need of. In short, we say all who respect and treat him well respect and treat us well, and whosoever treated him ill, ill-treated us.

And we also hereby give him a full power to make and enter into any Treaty on our behalf he approves of with any person or persons for trading or other purposes in our country.

Peace.

---

No. 18.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 41.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1901.

IN your Excellency's despatch No. 539 of the 7th November last you inclosed a Projet de Loi, approving the Convention concluded at Paris for the delimitation of the French and Spanish possessions bordering on the Sahara and on the coast of the Gulf of Guinea.

I request that your Excellency will inform me whether the Projet de Loi in question has passed through the French Chambers, and whether the Convention has been ratified.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 19.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 16.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 6, 1901.

THE German Minister spoke to me yesterday on the question of reinforcing the number of Spanish police in this town, as of late there have been several burglaries committed, and he considers that the public security is being seriously endangered.

Baron de Mentzingen told me that he had written to his Government on the subject, in the hope that some mention might be made at Madrid, and he asked me if I would also communicate with your Lordship.

I took an opportunity of inquiring of the Spanish Minister this morning whether he

was expecting any additional police force, as I understood that he had proposed to increase the number of his police agents here to twenty-five or thirty.

M. de Ojeda said that his Government did not wish to send any "guardia civil" here, as he had originally suggested; and that he was now contenting himself with seeking for a competent inspector who would take charge of the six policemen in plain clothes, who at present control a Spanish Colony of some 7,000 individuals, a fair proportion of whom are admittedly bad characters.

In view of the attitude of the Spanish Government in regard to this question, I think it would be advisable if the Diplomatic Body were to address itself to the Moorish Government with a view of having the native police force properly organized and trained, and regularly paid.

To arrive at these results, it would be necessary to place the force under a European inspector, and to draw up Regulations to govern the duties and powers of the force in relation to the subjects of the various nationalities. This matter has been discussed on more than one occasion by the foreign Representatives here in a somewhat desultory manner; but as the European population of Tangier is greatly augmenting, and the number of bad characters, both native and foreign, increasing, while crimes, such as burglaries, hitherto unknown, are now not infrequent, I would submit that the moment has arrived when some serious and definite steps should be taken for the establishment of proper police supervision and control.

I would, therefore, with your Lordship's permission, suggest to my colleagues that they should solicit authority from their Governments to prepare a project for the establishment of a native police force at Tangier, with such European elements in it as may be considered necessary. This project, when approved of by the several Governments, could be communicated to the Sultan for his consideration and sanction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 20.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 16.)*

(No. 15. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 7, 1901.*

ALTHOUGH the most acute question pending between the United States' Government and that of Morocco has been terminated by the payment of an indemnity for the murder of a naturalized American citizen at Fez, the Sultan appears to be unwilling that the United States' Representative should proceed to Court, being afraid lest further demands should be made upon him.

M. Gummeré informed me that the object of his Mission would be to present his credentials and also to obtain the settlement of some long-outstanding American claims. I have always understood from him that his visit would be of a friendly character, though it is probable he will insist on full satisfaction being given to the claims he has to present. In this his Mission will in no wise differ from those undertaken by other foreign Representatives.

The Moorish Government suggested privately to me that I should endeavour to dissuade M. Gummeré from paying his contemplated visit, and asked me to propose to my colleague that he should discuss his claims with the Sultan's Deputy here.

I have declined to intervene in any way in the matter, and have privately intimated to the Moorish Government that it would appear strange if they made an exception in the case of the United States' Representative, and demurred to his proceeding to Court as other Representatives have been in the habit of doing. I have also privately conveyed to the Moorish Government that the United States is a Power with whom it would be prudent on their part to remain on amicable terms, and that it would be unwise to provoke or irritate so powerful a State.

I now learn that the Moorish Government are about to write to the United States' Representative requesting him to kindly postpone his visit, as the Sultan is shortly proceeding to Fez. I believe also they intend to suggest to M. Gummeré that it would be more convenient if he discussed his claims with Hadj Mohammed Torres here. There are some plausible grounds for preferring the former request; but I should regret if the Moorish Government were to make the latter suggestion, as it is placing M. Gummeré on a different footing from his colleagues, and would not improbably cause serious displeasure.



I think it more prudent, nevertheless, in my private communications with the Court, to abstain from all comment on these steps; and I have not touched on the question with M. Gummeré. Any observations, moreover, which I now conveyed to the Moorish Government would arrive too late, as I am told that their communication to M. Gummeré was on the point of being dispatched, and indeed I have doubts whether they even awaited my reply to their original suggestions to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 21.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 18.)*

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 18, 1901.*

MY despatch No. 15 of the 7th instant.

I am informed by the United States' Representative that the Moorish Government have written to him that the Sultan is too much occupied to receive him, and they do not mention any later date for a possible meeting. He is further referred, for discussion of claims, to the Sultan's Deputy here.

Mr. Gummeré had not alluded to the claims, and had only informed the Sultan that he wished to present a letter from the President. He is sure that his Government, to whom he has telegraphed, will take serious notice of this action on the part of the Moorish Government, which is undoubtedly very foolish, and which he considers insulting.

---

## No. 22.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 19.)*

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 18, 1901.*

IN reply to the inquiry contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 41 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to state that the Projet de Loi approving the Convention concluded at Paris for the delimitation of the Franco-Spanish possessions bordering on the Sahara has not passed through the Chamber, nor has the Convention been ratified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

## No. 23.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 20, 1901.*

I HAVE considered your despatch No. 14 of the 6th instant, in which you give an account of the present state of the population of Tangier, and express the opinion that the time has arrived when steps should be taken for the establishment of proper police supervision and control in the town.

In view of the circumstances described in that despatch, I approve your proposal to suggest to your colleagues that they should obtain authority from their Governments to prepare a project for the establishment of a native police force at Tangier, containing such European elements as may be considered necessary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANDSDOWNE.

---

No. 24.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 13. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15, Confidential, of the 7th instant, relative to the attitude taken up by the Moorish Government with regard to the proposed mission of the American Representative at Tangier to the Court of Morocco.

I approve the advice given by you to the Moorish Government when you were privately consulted by them on the subject, and the course which you have adopted, as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 25.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 21.)

(No. 16. Secret.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 13, 1901.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me a message, through a private channel, informing me that "some time ago" the Sultan wrote a private letter to the President of the French Republic, complaining of the proceedings of French troops in the Tuat district, and explaining that the oasis in question had for generations formed part of the Moorish dominions, and that the inhabitants had regularly paid taxes and acknowledged the sovereignty of the Sultans of Morocco. His Majesty had suggested to the French President either that the question of ownership over Tuat should be submitted to arbitration or that he should dispatch a Special Mission to Paris to come to some understanding on the matter. The letter of the Sultan was couched, so the Minister for Foreign Affairs states, in the most conciliatory and friendly terms.

The reply which the Sultan received was to the effect that the President declined to submit the question to arbitration, and also stated that it would not be convenient to the French Government to receive a Special Mission. The President further explained that the French authorities had scrupulously observed the Treaty of 1845, and that France had no intention of occupying any territory properly belonging to the Sultan of Morocco.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, in communicating the above to me, said that he desired to ask my opinion as to whether it would be advisable for the Moorish Government to address themselves once more to the French Government, and, in the event of my considering that such a step would be likely to lead to some satisfactory results, he begged me to submit to the Sultan the draft of a letter to the French President.

I have conveyed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the question of writing to the French President is one which the Sultan and his Government must decide for themselves; and that it is a matter in which I am unable to intervene, and on which I regret that I am unable to give any advice.

I had heard that a communication had formerly been made by the Moorish Government to that of France in regard to the Tuat question, but I was unaware, until now, that the communication had been in the form of a letter from the Sultan to M. Loubet. I understand that the chief desire of the Sultan at present is to obtain the settlement of some frontier-line, a wish which does not appear to be unreasonable. His Majesty fears serious troubles with the tribes if his boundaries are left in their present vague and undefined condition, and I confess that, to a certain extent, I also share his apprehension.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 26.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 21.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 14, 1901.

CERTAIN matters of general interest were intrusted to the German Minister to settle with the Moorish Government during his visit to the Court, and, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 150 of the 24th December, 1900, these questions had been referred back to Tangier.

The Diplomatic Body has now appointed a Commission, composed of the German, French, and Spanish Ministers and myself, to discuss these questions with a Council of four Moorish Commissioners named by the Moorish Government.

The questions to be discussed are the enlargement of the European cemetery at Tangier, the establishment of a permanent lazaret, the imposition of certain municipal taxes, and the concession of a water supply to this town.

The Joint Commission held its first meeting to-day, and, though its proceedings were harmonious, merely minor questions were dealt with, and it is yet too early to foretell whether any practical results are likely to be eventually reached.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 27.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 21.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 14, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a note which I have received from the Sultan's deputy in regard to the lists of semsars and mokhalats which, in accordance with custom, this Legation furnishes to the Moorish authorities at the commencement of each year. Those of my colleagues who have sent in their lists for the present year have also received a similar communication.

I would, in the first place, beg leave to point out that it would be a departure from the custom invariably followed to admit that the Moorish authorities are to determine which merchants or others have a right to semsars. This is a point on which the Legations alone should decide. The names of new semsars are always previously submitted to the Sultan's deputy, and if he has any well-founded objection to an individual receiving a semsar's certificate the merchant is requested to seek for an acceptable substitute. In the case of mokhalats, inquiries are always made of the Consul in whose district the individual may reside as to his character and antecedents, and a certificate is only issued if the results of the inquiries are satisfactory. As mokhalats do not enjoy personal protection, it has never been considered necessary to ascertain from the Moorish authorities their opinions in regard to the persons in question.

The note of Cid Mohammed Torres further lays down a provision which, if accepted, would go to the root of all commercial security in this country. His Excellency contends that no merchant is allowed a mokhalat, and argues that this category is limited to "servants and workmen" who are engaged in certain specified employments, such as agriculture or domestic service. Article IX of the Madrid Convention speaks of "employé or servant in the employ of a foreign subject," and this has always been considered as embracing those in the employment of foreign merchants. The latter could not carry on their business if the interests confided to mokhalats were not protected, as the two semsars to whom the merchants are entitled under the Convention would not suffice. The contention of Cid Mohammed Torres will, I know, not be admitted by my colleagues, and the question will be discussed at an approaching meeting of the Diplomatic Body as to the reply to be sent to the communication of the Sultan's deputy. As I believe some of my colleagues have already written to their Governments on the matter, I venture to send the note now to your Lordship, and will report further after the meeting of the Diplomatic Body.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 27.

*Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 20 *Shawal*, 1318 (*February* 10, 1901).

I RECEIVED your letter dated the 5th instant, inclosing the lists for the year 1901, and I took note of its contents. As regards the Consular employés and semsars of the merchants, I have written to all the administrators of the ports to make a thorough investigation about them and report to me the results. Those who are in conformity with the Treaty drawn up upon this subject will be accepted, and their Governors be written to further informing them thereof. And those who are not in conformity with the Treaty will be indicated to you that you may consult with me about them, and so that you may assist in carrying out this matter in accordance with its Regulations. As regards the desire of merchants to take to themselves mokhalateen, this is not admitted; as Article IX of the Madrid Convention only stipulates for the taking of servants and workmen. And it is admitted that a servant and workman is for a special purpose, such as assisting in the house of business or in private residence. But whoever has agricultural interests or pasturing of domestic animals with proofs thereof, in conformity with the Régulation Beclard, they are also admitted, and a limit put upon the number of persons (he shall thus have) as it is limited to the Consulates.

As regards business transactions between persons there is no obstacle thereunto, and it is not dependent upon the issuing of a certificate nor the notification of it to the Governor.

The testimony by document of town Adools is obligatory, also the balancing of accounts at the commencement of each year.

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) MOHAMMED BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

---

No. 28.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 21.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 14, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 15 and 19 of the 14th and 22nd February of last year, I have the honour to report that the discussions of the Diplomatic Body in regard to the Moorish proposals respecting the right of protection in Morocco have been recently recommenced; and it is proposed to shortly send to our respective Governments a Memorandum embodying the conclusions we have reached.

The point, on which I reported in my despatch No. 15 of the 14th February of last year, has been discussed at considerable length by my colleagues, and I find that all of them, with the exception of the United States' Representative, are disposed to dispute the right of commercial houses non-resident in Morocco to semsars. The Moorish authorities have also recently demurred to semsar certificates being issued to houses thus situated.

From inquiries which I have made of some London and Manchester firms, I understand that the majority would object to semsars being withdrawn from them, and contend that they have an equal right to such agents as resident firms whose interests are in most cases of minor importance. They do not, moreover, appear disposed to institute branch establishments here, as they are rightly satisfied with carrying on business through their agents or direct with their customers, as they have done for many years past; and I should hardly feel justified in suggesting a change in their business methods.

I have contended with my colleagues and the Moorish authorities that the Madrid Convention does not specifically exclude non-resident firms from the privileges enjoyed by others, and I have maintained that as the interests of British non-resident firms are of great importance, they, in fact, carrying on the bulk of the import trade, I am unable to refuse semsar certificates to them, so long as they do not exceed two semsars for each firm.

I confess I am not quite sure of my ground in the attitude I have adopted; still the point is one which can be argued, and I should be most unwilling to suggest to



your Lordship the withdrawal of any safeguard to British commerce in the present condition of this country.

Moreover, I may confidentially state that the abuses which, in some cases, undoubtedly prevail as regards the grant of semsars cannot be laid at the door of any British firm, and it would, I submit, be unfair to read the Convention too strictly in respect to non-resident London and Manchester firms, when a very loose and wide interpretation is being given to its provisions in the cases of some foreign houses of business who outwardly fulfil the letter of the Convention by having nominal branch establishments here.

In the Memorandum which will be forwarded to our Governments, I hope to be able to have this point left open, with a mere statement that I reserve my opinion on the subject. The question has been somewhat warmly argued by some of my colleagues, and so I thought it as well to report it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 29.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 23.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 23, 1901.

ACCORDING to a report received by post from His Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers, the Vice-Consul at Oran telegraphs on the 15th instant that a rumour is current to the effect that the French propose to occupy Figuig. The General has gone southward for that purpose, and it is probable that the occupation will be effected before the end of the month.

---

No. 30.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 27.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 27, 1901.

MY telegram No. 3 of the 18th instant.

I have been informed by the United States' Representative that his Government has instructed him to inform the Sultan that they presume his wishes have been misinterpreted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and they are unable to admit that a Mission from a friendly Power can be refused. He is also to state that the Mission will start on the date previously named, and that the ships of war intended to convey him are on their way to Morocco.

Should, however, further delay be attempted by the Moorish Government, which seems to me most improbable, on the arrival of the ships Mr. Gummeré is to demand immediate payment at Tangier of all American claims as well as a formal apology.

---

No. 31.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 19 of the 14th instant, relative to the discussions in the Diplomatic Body at Tangier with regard to the question of protection in Morocco, in which almost all your colleagues have shown a disposition to dispute the right of non-resident commercial firms to have semsars.

I approve the attitude adopted by you as therein described, and I will await the receipt of the Memorandum referred to in the last paragraph of your despatch before furnishing you with any instructions on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 32.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 17.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 18 of the 14th instant, inclosing a copy of a note addressed to you by the Sultan's Deputy, relative to the list of semsars and mokhalats, which His Majesty's Legation, in accordance with custom, furnishes at the beginning of each year to the Moorish authorities.

I concur in the views expressed by you in that despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 33.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February* 28.)

(No. 65.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 27, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting the recent attack on Timmimoum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 33.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson to Sir E. Monson*

(No. 8.)

Sir, *Paris, February* 24, 1901.

THE War Office publishes the following account of the action which took place recently at Timmimoum, where the French have been in occupation for the last year.

On the 18th instant, led by the Caids of Bouda and Charrouin, the Ghazza of the Berabers advanced to the attack of Timmimoum with 1,000 men, the garrison for the defence of the post numbering 160. After three hours fighting in the dark the Ghazza withdrew, leaving 100 corpses on the field, while over 200 killed and wounded were removed. The French had nine killed and twenty-one wounded. Among the killed were one captain of Algerian Tirailleurs, two Officiers d'Administration, one sergeant, two men of the African battalion, and three Tirailleurs. Among the wounded were two officers, a Sergeant-Major, and eighteen Algerian Tirailleurs.

The effect of this check to the natives will be enormous. The Ghazza, who came direct from Tafilalet, retired into the dunes west of the Belka of Gourara.

General Servière, who is now making a tour of the Gourara, recently telegraphed that he had subdued, without striking a blow, several important tribes, including the Ksours of Sahela-Metarfa.

Timmimoum is the richest oasis of the Gourara district, comprising 22,000 inhabitants and 700,000 palm trees. It is on the left bank of the Sebkha of Gourara.

The Berabers are nomads, who are the terror of caravans in the south. On the 30th August, 1900, the French troops inflicted severe loss on them near Sahela-Metarfa, 80 kilom. from Timmimoum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON,

*Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

---



No. 34.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March* 1.)

(No. 20. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 21, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the United States' Representative called on me on the 18th instant, and told me that he had received the day before a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs which he could not consider otherwise than as an insult to his Government. Mr. Gummeré said that he had written to the Shereefian Court in January last, informing the Government that he had been charged with a letter from the President of the United States to the Sultan, and that, if convenient to His Majesty, he proposed to proceed to Morocco city about the middle of March for the purpose of delivering it.

The reply he had received was to the effect that the Sultan was busy with important matters and was about to start on a journey, and therefore could not receive him, and that if he had any claims to discuss, he should do so with the Sultan's deputy here.

Mr. Gummeré said that not a word was said as to an audience at a later date, and as he had not mentioned the question of claims in his communication, he was unable to understand the reason of it being alluded to in the reply of the Moorish Government.

He had, he told me, telegraphed to his Government the substance of the note he had received, and he expected that they would take serious notice of the discourtesy with which they and their Representative had been treated—a treatment, indeed, which was without precedent and which constituted a deliberate insult.

Mr. Gummeré was somewhat excited over the incident, and though I could not but admit that the action of the Moorish Government was very foolish, he declined to accept as any mitigation their want of experience in diplomatic usage and in Western amenities.

Mr. Gummeré, up to this date, has received no reply to his telegram; but he tells me his Government have been much annoyed for some time past with the want of regard and consideration shown by the Moorish authorities in their dealings with him, and he is confident that this last rebuff will exhaust their patience.

He begged me to treat all he had told me as strictly confidential; and I have, therefore, not mentioned the matter to any of my colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 35.

*Foreign Office to Mr. H. H. Quirk.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 5, 1901.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 15th ultimo, relative to the Concession granted in 1884 by the Kings of Adrar and Tekna to Mohammed-el-Sabbar, and recently assigned by the latter to you, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that the territory lying between Cape Nun and Cape Bojador has been recognized by His Majesty's Government as belonging to Morocco, and that the coast line between Cape Bojador and Cape Blanco is, as you are aware, under the protection of Spain.

A Convention was last year concluded between France and Spain for the delimitation of the French and Spanish possessions in North-west Africa, and is still before the French Chamber previous to ratification. By that Convention Adrar (Tmarr) is left within French territory, while Adran Sutuf is included in the territory attributed to Spain.

It will, therefore, be necessary for you to obtain the consent of the Spanish Government before dispatching any expedition to Adran Sutuf, and of both the Spanish and French Governments before dispatching an expedition to Adrar Tmarr. An expedition could not land on the coast without the consent of the former Government, nor proceed to Adrar Tmarr without that of the latter.

In the event of your equipping such an expedition without the previous consent of the Government or Governments concerned, you will do so entirely on your own responsibility and at your own risk, and, in such circumstances, His Majesty's Government would be unable to extend to you any support or assistance.

I am to add that it seems possible that questions may arise on the terms of the Concession, both as to the jurisdiction and powers of the grantors, and as to the right of the original concessionnaire to transfer it to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

No. 36.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 20. Secret.)
Sir,

*Foreign Office, March* 6, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 16, Secret, of the 13th ultimo relative to the request of the Moorish Government for your advice as to whether they should address a further communication to the French Government with regard to the question of the frontier.

I approve the terms of the reply given by you as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 37.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March* 9.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord,

*Tangier, February* 26, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have addressed to the Sultan's deputy in reply to his communication of the 10th instant regarding the position of semsars and mokhalats, and other matters connected with the interpretation and execution of the Madrid Convention.

The note of Hadj Mohammed Torres was discussed at a recent meeting of the Diplomatic Body, and as all the Representatives were in accord, the French Minister and the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires were requested to draw up a note which should embody the views we held in regard to the points raised in the Moorish communication. This draft note was approved by all my colleagues, and I have therefore taken it as the basis of my communication, as it was considered advisable not to address absolutely identic notes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 37.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

*Tangier, February* 25, 1901.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the note which your Excellency was good enough to address to me on the 20th Showal, 1318 (10th February, 1901), acknowledging the receipt of my lists for 1901, and making certain observations to which I would wish to reply.

In regard to the employés of Consulates and the semsars of merchants, Article VIII of the Convention of Madrid says that the lists shall be transmitted to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in order that, if they are not in conformity with the Regulations, the Representatives at Tangier may be so informed. There is no doubt as to this, but it must be clearly understood that the lists have not to await the ratification of the Moorish Government, and that they come into effect from the day they have been transmitted, as was recognized in Protocol No. 4 of the Conference of Madrid, and as was agreed to by



the late Si Mohammed Bargash, who signed the Protocol. I quite admit that when your Excellency has received the lists you have a perfect right to draw my attention to any protections which may appear to you to be irregular, but until we have together come to an understanding on such protections, the Moorish Government is responsible should any harm or injury occur to those who are inscribed on the lists.

With respect to your observation that merchants have no right to mokhalats, I would point out that Article IX of the Convention of Madrid lays down no restriction in that respect. Article IX speaks in general terms of "employés or servants of foreign subjects," and it does not specify the nature of the employment on which such employés or servants should be employed; it may be agricultural or commercial, or of any other kind. Article IX clearly supersedes the Convention of 1863 on this point, as in Article X of the Madrid Convention it is especially mentioned that the provisions of the Convention of 1863 are maintained as regards semsars; if the provisions of the 1863 Convention still governed as regards "associés agricoles," this fact would have been specially mentioned also.

Furthermore, Article IX states that the local authorities cannot arrest employés or servants without previously advising the protecting authority; and in order to avoid mistakes experience has demonstrated that it is advisable to furnish the authorities with lists of such individuals, although there is no obligation under the Convention to do so. During many years it has been the custom, both on the part of the Moorish Government and of the Legations and Consulates, to designate these individuals as mokhalats, and I am unable to find in the note of your Excellency any reason why this convenient designation, admitted and used by your Excellency during so many years, should be abandoned.

With regard to limiting the number of these individuals, I am unable to discover any provision in the Madrid Convention which would support such a contention. At the same time, it is unnecessary for me to assure your Excellency that all proper care is taken by this Legation to limit the number of mokhalats in proportion to the value and nature of the interests confided to their charge by their several employers.

Your Excellency states that all business transactions should be attested by town Adools alone. There is nothing in any Convention which would limit this necessary formality to the Adools of the towns, and I am unable to understand why country Adools should not be permitted to exercise this duty, nor can I admit that such documents should be annually renewed. Should the business transactions between two parties be modified in any way, it would be desirable that new documents should be drawn up; and I would be glad if your Excellency would cause instructions to be sent to the several provincial Governors to permit the Adools to attest such fresh documents.

I think I have replied to the several points raised in the note of your Excellency; but I would wish, in conclusion, to draw your Excellency's attention to the following.

The Diplomatic Body some time ago received from Si Abdallah-ben-Saïd certain proposals in respect to the interpretation and execution of the Madrid Convention. These proposals are being examined by the Diplomatic Body, and I confess I am somewhat surprised to see them embodied in your Excellency's note, and that it is desired to give immediate effect to them not only before our examination of them had been concluded, but also before we have expressed any opinion upon them.

May you rest, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 38.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March* 9.)

(No. 22. Confidential.)
My Lord,

*Tangier, February* 27, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 20 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to state that the United States' Representative informed me to-day that he had received a telegram from his Government in regard to the difficulty which had arisen with respect to his mission to the Shereefian Court.

Mr. Gummeré told me that he had been instructed to intimate to the Sultan that his Government could not admit that His Majesty could decline to receive a Mission from a friendly Power, and that they presumed that the communication from the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs demurring to the visit of their Representative must have been written under a misapprehension of His Majesty's real wishes. They

did not doubt that the Sultan would disavow the above-mentioned communication; and as the men-of-war which were to convey Mr. Gummeré down the coast were already on their way to Morocco, Mr. Gummeré was to inform the Sultan that he would arrive at Mazagan, the port of disembarkation, at the date he had originally suggested, namely, about the middle of March. Mr. Gummeré had, consequently, addressed a communication to the Sultan to the above effect.

Mr. Gummeré further informed me that, in the event of the Moorish Government still making difficulties, he was instructed to demand a formal apology and the immediate payment at Tangier of all American claims. These instructions he was, he said, holding in reserve until he received a reply to the note which he had dispatched by special courier to Morocco city.

He had given the Moorish Government to understand that his messenger would only wait two days at Morocco city for the answer.

I have no doubt that the messenger will return with a cordial invitation to the Court, and that there will be no necessity for Mr. Gummeré to act upon the latter part of his instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 39.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 1, 1901.

I HEAR privately from the Shereefian Court that the Sultan and his Ministers are much perturbed by some news which they have received from Tafilelt, dated the 9th ultimo. The news is to the effect that the French have established a station at mid-distance between Tafilelt and Igli, and that they have opened a market there, where they purchase Moorish produce at very high prices, and sell European goods, especially cotton, at nominal prices. This, the Moorish Government consider, is part of the policy of the French authorities to win over the natives in that neighbourhood.

The Minister of War has sent me for perusal two letters which he has received from the Moorish authorities at Tafilelt, relating the above facts. On the other hand, some 18,000 natives, so the Moorish Government state, have taken refuge at Tafilelt, having abandoned their lands and flocks on the approach of the French forces. The presence of these refugees has caused considerable excitement at Tafilelt, and the Minister of War fears that it will be difficult to restrain the tribes from attacking the French troops. The Minister of War, recognizing the serious consequences which would ensue from such a step, has addressed urgent letters to the Moorish authorities to do their utmost to prevent the outbreak of hostilities.

I am further informed that the Sultan is of opinion that the French intend shortly to occupy Tafilelt, and that His Majesty is about to address a letter to the French President, pointing out the dangers of the present situation, and suggesting that a Franco-Moorish Commission be appointed without delay to mark out a frontier between Algeria and Morocco in those districts.

From the reports published in "Le Temps" of the 24th and 25th ultimo, it would seem that a portion of the Tafilelt tribes have already taken the offensive, and have suffered a reverse in an attack they made on the 18th February on the French post at Timmimoum.

The news of this affair cannot yet have reached the Shereefian Court, but when known it will not tend to allay the apprehension of the Sultan. I observe also in the "Temps" that the Governor-General of Algeria has stated, in his official report regarding the attack on Timmimoum, that, while the natives generally welcome the French advance, the Moorish Berber subjects of Tafilelt endeavour to place difficulties in the way, as they fear that, with the establishment of French authority in their neighbourhood, they will be unable to continue the raids which they have practised for so long.

If the French authorities in those regions consider that the Berber tribes of Tafilelt are responsible for the attack on Timmimoum, and for any resistance which may be made to the French advance, a punitive expedition might be deemed necessary, and an occupation of the Tafilelt oasis might ensue.



Should these eventualities occur, and they seem to be not improbable, the situation would become disquieting, and I doubt if an occupation of Tafilelt would be received in Morocco so calmly as was that of the Tuat oasis.

It is to be hoped that the Sultan's appeal to the French President may have some results, though the ill-success of the former overture of His Majesty is not encouraging.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 40.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 86.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 7, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting military movements in South Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 40.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Paris, March* 7, 1901.

IT is reported that General Servière is carrying out his Mission in the Touat region satisfactorily.

The Bonda district surrendered on the 12th ultimo, and the French troops entered the ksour without striking a blow.

General Servière then pushed up north of Bonda, afterwards turning towards Tamentit, which place he arrived at without incident on the 20th ultimo.

Having heard of the fighting at Timmimoum, the General was last reported as returning to the north of Touat to organize defence, among the tribes recently surrendered, from aggression expected from the tribes which attacked Timmimoum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

---

No. 41.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 7, 1901.

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch to your Lordship No. 2 of the 5th January, which I find in the Confidential print, and which comments upon a Memorandum by Mr. O'Beirne on the Figuig Oasis and the neighbouring tribes, which was forwarded to the Foreign Office by Mr. Herbert in his despatch No. 600 of the 5th December last, I have the honour to transmit herewith some notes upon the same subject which have have been put together by Mr. O'Beirne as supplementary to his original Memorandum.

The first of these notes refers to the Ouled Djerir and the Hamian, and quotes in regard to them an extract from a work entitled "Documents pour servir à l'Étude du Nord-Ouest Africain," which was compiled in 1896–97 by order of M. Cambon, at that time Governor-General of Algeria, by M. Lamartinière, Directeur du Cabinet des Affaires Indigènes of the Algerian Government, and Captain Lacroix.

The second note relates to the maps laying down the Franco-Maroccan frontier, and the position of Figuig as given in them.

The third is a quotation from the official preface by M. Cambon to the "documents" above referred to as to the Sultan's authority over Figuig.

I regret that as the "documents" were only printed for the confidential use of the Government it is impossible to obtain a copy for transmission to the Foreign Office. Your Lordship will see that Mr. O'Beirne's examination of it leads him to describe it as a work which "besides containing some official correspondence of great interest bearing on the relations between Algeria and Morocco, is an exhaustive compendium of information, collected from the best available sources, regarding the tribes of North-West Africa, their origin, history, organization, &c.; and that it has been followed as authoritative by different French writers who have recently dealt with these subjects."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 41.

*Further Notes by Mr. O'Beirne on Figuig and Neighbouring Tribes.*

IT may be useful, with reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 2 of the 5th January, last, to give some particulars supplementary to the Memorandum of the 5th December, 1900, on Figuig and the neighbouring tribes, touching the points specially referred to by Sir Arthur.

(1.) The Ouled Djerir and the Hamian.

Sir A. Nicolson is informed that the Ouled Djerir are not a branch of the Algerian tribe of Haiman as stated in the Memorandum, but a branch of the Doui Menia, who are under Moorish domination. The best French authority on the point is a work named "Documents pour servir à l'Étude du Nord-Ouest Africain," compiled in 1896–97, "by order" of M. Jules Cambon, then Governor-General of Algeria, by M. Lamartinière, then Directeur du Cabinet des Affaires Indigènes of the Algerian Government, and Captain Lacroix.* This work, besides containing some official correspondence of great interest bearing on the relations between Algeria and Morocco, is an exhaustive compendium of information collected from the best available sources, regarding the tribes of North-West Africa, their origin, history, organization, &c., and it has been followed as authoritative by different French writers who have recently dealt with these subjects. It describes the Ouled Djerir as a branch of the Hamian in the following passage:—

"Lorsque les Doui Menia vinrent s'implanter dans la Vallée de l'Oued Guir, ils trouvèrent cette contrée habitée depuis environ 1285 par des Arabes Zorba, les Hamian, qu'y avait amenés Yar Moraceni, Souverain de Tlemcen. Ils les en chassèrent et s'établirent à leur place. Toutefois, une fraction des Hamian parvinrent à se maintenir dans le nord-est vers Bechar et Ouakda, et dans les montagnes escarpées qui dominent ces petits ksours. C'est d'elle que descendent les Ouled Djerir."

The writers go on to say that the Ouled Djerir have long since become the allies of the powerful Doui Menia. The combination of the forces of the two tribes for purposes of war (the Ouled Djerir contingent being estimated at 735 foot and 200 horse, that of the Doui Menia at 5,000 foot and 1,500 horse) is named Zegdou, a term used for a war-like confederation; and probably the existence of this alliance is the foundation for the information supplied to Sir A. Nicolson that the Ouled Djerir are a branch of the Doui Menia. The internal organization of the two tribes remains of course distinct, and their respective ranges of country are tolerably well defined.

It should, however, be added that although the Ouled Djerir, according to the authority cited, are Hamian, and all the Hamian with the exception of the Hamian Djenba are assigned by the 1845 Treaty to Algeria, nevertheless the Ouled Djerir have as a fact acknowledged the suzerainty of Morocco, the Kaids of the two great divisions of the tribe (Asassa and Mefalha) having gone to Fez in 1893 and received investiture from the Sultan.

Besides the Ouled Djerir, the principal branches of the Hamian are given as the R'araba (branching into the Chefaa and Djenba) and the Cheraga. The Treaty of 1845, negotiated, as the French maintain, on their side with insufficient knowledge of the real conditions, assigned the Djenba Hamian to Morocco in disregard of the fact that they were closely associated by race and history with the Chefaa, who were given to Algeria. The anomalous situation thus created has resulted in the larger portion of the Djenba

* The book is not published; a limited number of copies only were printed for the use of officials. I have seen a copy at the Société de Géographie.



coming (voluntarily, according to the French records) under the French Administration despite the provisions of the Treaty, though they at one time shifted their camping grounds to the westward for the express purpose of avoiding that contingency.

2. The Map of 1843 mentioned in the Memorandum as giving the "frontière présumée" between Algeria and Morocco, and placing Figuig considerably on the Algerian side, is printed (marked "Confidential") in the work of Lamartinière and Lacroix referred to above. Five years later, Sir A. Nicolson points out, the French Staff Map of 1848 assigned not only Figuig but also Tuat to Morocco. But, in the meantime, Marshal de la Rue had committed what is generally condemned by French colonial opinion as the grave blunder of signing away Figuig to Morocco. M. Cambon expresses that view in milder official language in his preface to vol. ii of the "Documents:" "Notre Plénipotentiaire d'alors s'est montré trop facile aux concessions notamment en ce qui concerne Figuig." The occupation of Ain Chair is only one of various expedients suggested for the purpose of evading the irksome consequences of the Treaty, which leaves Figuig as a standing menace to the South Algerian Railway. The author of this suggestion, M. Adolphe Berthoud, a well-informed writer in the "Dépêche Coloniale," contends that the only frontier satisfactory to France in these regions would be the course of the Oued Guir, which would include both the Doui Menia and the Ouled Djerir country in Algerian territory.

3. In connection with Sir A. Nicolson's observations regarding the authority of the Sultan over Figuig, it may be of interest to quote another passage from M. Cambon's introduction to the "Documents," which seems to state the case fairly enough from the French point of view:—

"Trop éloigné pour pouvoir exercer une action directe sur ces indigènes, certain d'ailleurs de n'obtenir d'eux que des protestations d'obéissance, ce Souverain" (the Sultan) "se borna pendant de longues années à écrire aux personnages les plus marquants de l'oasis pour les engager à s'interposer et à faire cesser les luttes intestines. Mais ce que l'influence problématique du Sultan ne pouvait obtenir c'était d'empêcher Figuig de devenir peu à peu le refuge et le lieu de ravitaillement de tous nos mécontents, de tous ceux qui . . . . avaient ou croyaient avoir à se plaindre de nous."

(Signed) HUGH O'BEIRNE.

*March* 7, 1901.

---

No. 42.

*Mr. H. Quirk to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Suffolk House, London, March* 12, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 5th instant, and am obliged for the information contained therein.

I desire to point out, however, that the documents signed by the independent tribes of the Río de Oro coast referred to in the Spanish notification, dated the 9th January, 1885, whereby Spain agreed to take over the protection of the territories comprised between Cape Blanco and Cape Bojador, are subsequent in date to the concession granted to Mohammed-el-Sabbar, and since transferred to me. Moreover, Adrar Tmarr, being in the interior, is not comprised in that Protectorate, and it is, therefore, not competent for Spain to assign to France territory which she does not possess or occupy. I am aware that His Majesty's Government has recognized that the territory lying between Cape Nun and Cape Bojador belongs to Morocco, but presume that if I am prepared to pay the usual customs duties at any port on the coast alleged to be under Spanish protection (if any such ports exist), I am entitled to the support and assistance of His Majesty's Government. If not, am I to understand from your Lordship's letter that His Majesty's Government is content to allow territory belonging to independent tribes to be shut out from the commerce of the world to the detriment of British commercial interests without a protest to the Governments concerned in the Convention referred to?

I do not understand the concluding paragraph of your Lordship's letter, and should be grateful if you would indicate what are the possible questions which may arise as to the jurisdiction or powers of the grantors, and as to the right of the original concessionnaire to transfer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY H. QUIRK.

---

No. 43.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 23.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 21 of the 26th ultimo, inclosing a copy of the note addressed by you to the Sultan's Deputy in reply to his communication relative to the position of semsars and mokhalats, and other matters connected with the interpretation and execution of the Madrid Convention.

The terms of your note to Cid Mohammed Torres have my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 44.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 24. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 5, 1901.

IN the course of a conversation this morning, the French Minister alluded to the recent attack by some Tafilelt tribes on the French post at Timmimum, and I took the opportunity of asking him whether it was a fact that the assailants were from Tafilelt, as, in that case, they must have traversed a considerable distance before reaching their objective.

M. Révoil replied that there was no doubt on that point, and added that the hostile attitude of these Berber tribes was a cause of much embarrassment and annoyance to the French military authorities. I mentioned to him that, according to my information, the Sultan was sincerely desirous of restraining the Tafilelt tribes from undertaking hostile movements, and that it would be unfortunate if their disobedience placed the Sultan in an awkward position.

M. Révoil agreed that the Sultan had done his best to keep the Tafilelt tribes within bounds, but recent events showed that he had little authority over them.

I asked him if the Sultan's Deputy had mentioned the incident to him; and he replied in the negative, adding that he understood the Sultan was somewhat perturbed at the situation on the frontier.

I told M. Révoil that so far as I had been able to appreciate the situation the Sultan seemed to be uneasy lest circumstances might compel the French military authorities to advance into territory undoubtedly Moorish, and that I believed he was desirous of having a frontier line established, so that he might know up to what point his responsibility for good order extended.

M. Révoil said that he had heard that the Sultan and others were imbued with the idea that the French were intent on occupying Tafilelt itself, and perhaps proceeding even further inland. He could not imagine a wilder project. Even supposing, he continued, that France had ambitious designs on Morocco, could she commit a more insane act in furtherance of such designs than to initiate action by an occupation of Tafilelt? What would be the consequences?

The whole of Morocco would be in flame; the Morocco question would be opened at once; other Powers would immediately take the precautions necessary to secure their interests, and we should find ourselves, M. Révoil exclaimed, wandering in the sands of the deserts or among the palm trees of the oases, while others had comfortably established themselves in the Atlantic ports. France, he added with emphasis, would not commit such an act of folly.

As regards a frontier, M. Révoil reiterated the old arguments as to the difficulties in the way of establishing one, although he appeared to think that some arrangements might be made as to allocating the several tribes either to French or Moorish dominion. M. Révoil went at considerable length into the past history of the relations of the French authorities with the Moorish Government with the view of showing the forbearance which had been exercised in face of considerable provocation on the part of the frontier tribes, and also the loyal manner in which France had observed the provisions of the Treaty of 1845.



He concluded by saying that, when he visited the Court later in the year to present his credentials, he intended to explain matters fully to the Sultan and his Ministers, and he hoped to be able to allay any apprehensions which might still exist in their minds in regard to the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 45.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 8, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the question of reorganizing the Tangier police force was discussed at a recent meeting of the Diplomatic Body, and the doyen (the Belgian Minister) was requested to draw up a project.

I beg leave to transmit a copy of the scheme, with which all my colleagues have expressed their concurrence. It is proposed to ask the United States' Representative to discuss the matter with the Moorish Government on his approaching visit to the Court.

There is one point on which the foreign Representatives especially desire to ascertain the views of their respective Governments, and on which I should be glad to receive your Lordship's instructions. The point in question is the authority granted to police to arrest a foreign subject. This authority would be conditional on the police immediately handing over the individual to his own Legation or Consulate; and, if the arrest were made during the night, that the individual should be transferred to his authorities as early as possible on the following morning. I believe that this is the custom in Eastern countries where Capitulations exist, and it seems to me essential that the police should possess the power of arrest if they are to execute their duties properly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 45.

*Project for Tangier Police Force.*

IL s'agit de constituer une police générale fonctionnant de jour et de nuit et remplaçant par conséquent la police très insuffisante qui existe aujourd'hui.

L'organisation devrait, autant que possible, être calquée sur ce qui se fait en Égypte. Cette police serait sous les ordres supérieurs du Pacha mais aurait comme chef immédiat un Européen qui serait adopté.

Cette police devrait se composer d'un chef supérieur Européen (Capitaine), de deux sous-chefs (autant que possible Européens) (Lieutenants), huit caporaux et soixante-douze hommes. Elle est divisée en huit sections, chacune de neuf hommes et un caporal, plus cinq cavaliers adjoints à la police *extra muros*, un caporal et quatre cavaliers, en tout quatre-vingt-huit hommes. Quatre sections seraient chargées de la police en ville, et quatre sections de la police *extra muros*.

| Traitements— | | | | | | Dollars. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Capitaine, par semaine | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30·00 |
| 2 Lieutenants, 15 dollars par semaine | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30·00 |
| 9 caporaux, 12 réaux par jour | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 38·00 |
| 72 hommes, 7 „ „ | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 186·00 |
| 4 cavaliers, 8 „ „ | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11·04 |
| Total par semaine | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 297·04 |

Il faudrait en ville un local pouvant servir de corps de garde ayant en même temps une chambre convenable pour le chef, une chambre d'arrêt, destinée aux étrangers qui devraient être remis le lendemain matin à leur autorité avec un procès-verbal indiquant le motif de leur arrestation, et une écurie pour les chevaux des hommes montés.

Les hommes devraient être armés, porter une ceinture de cuir pour le revolver et un grand brassard rouge comme signe distinctif, un cornet pour, le cas échéant, appeler

de renfort, un imperméable en forme de djlab, et un burnous en drap bleu; pour le reste ils s'habilleraient à leurs frais.

Les hommes montés devraient faire des rondes pour s'assurer que le service se fait exactement.

Quant à la manière de distribuer le service, c'est-à-dire d'indiquer les rondes à faire, les lieux où les gardes devraient exercer leur surveillance quand ils sont de service, le nombre d'heures au service actif et repos, &c., tout ceci devrait être signé par le chef de police d'accord avec le Pacha.

Les gardes particuliers payés par les négociants seront, comme par le passé, sur la demande de ceux-ci fournis par le Pacha.

Des prescriptions me semblent, toutefois indispensables :—

1. Tous lieux où l'on vend des boissons—cafés, cabarets, &c.—doivent être fermés à 11 heures du soir. Ceci devrait être bien strictement observé. Sanctionné par des procès-verbaux adressés immédiatement à l'autorité d'où le délinquant relève et par la poursuite immédiate de la part de ces autorités.

2. Après 11 heures toute personne rencontrée dans les rues sans lanterne pourrait être interrogée par la police, et si les réponses semblent peu satisfaisantes être conduite au poste central où le chef jugerait s'il y a lieu de faire accompagner la personne jusque chez elle ou la retenir jusqu'au lendemain matin.

Il est entendu que toutes ces mesures devraient être prises par l'autorité Marocaine et qu'elle ne dégagerait en rien le Gouvernement Marocain des responsabilités qu'il encourt aujourd'hui.

---

No. 46.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 9, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister was recently speaking to me as to his late Mission to the Shereefian Court, and I took the opportunity of inquiring whether any steps were being taken in regard to two of the questions treated by him, namely the establishment of a fishing station at Ifni and the water supply of Ceuta.

M. de Ojeda said that as to the first question he had, some time ago, suggested to the Moorish Government to give Cape Juby—subject, of course, to the approval of His Majesty's Government—in exchange for Ifni, and that he had received a reply that the matter would be examined. The late Spanish Government, he said, had shown no eagerness in the question, and he had, therefore, not pressed it. He did not know if the new Cabinet would be disposed to revive the proposal.

As to the water supply for Ceuta, the Moorish Government had written to their authorities here for further information, and he had also heard that a deputation from the tribes in the neighbourhood of Ceuta had left for Morocco city to petition the Sultan against any concession being granted that would affect their water supply.

M. de Ojeda said that he did not intend to press this question either on the Moorish Government unless he received direct instructions to do so. He remarked once more that all the good results of his Mission to the Shereefian Court had been nullified by the proposal subsequently made for the cession by the Sultan of the whole coast-line between Wad Draâ and Cape Bojador. The distrust and suspicions of the Moorish Government—and, perhaps, also of other Governments—had been thereby aroused, and he would, consequently, be much hampered in any further negotiations which he might undertake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 47.

*Foreign Office to Mr. H. Quirk.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 22, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant relative to the Concession granted by the Kings of Adrar and Tekna to Mohammed-el-Sabbar, and recently transferred to you.



I am to inform you that his Lordship must decline to enter into any discussion with regard to the points raised by you in that letter.

To the terms of the letter from this Office of the 5th instant Lord Lansdowne has nothing to add. It will, as therein stated, be for you to ascertain whether, and on what conditions, you can obtain permission from the Spanish and French Governments for your proposed expedition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN

---

No. 48.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 28.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 15, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 14th February, I have the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum containing the observations of the Diplomatic Body on the proposals submitted by the Moorish Commissioner in regard to the execution and interpretation of the Convention of Madrid. For convenience of reference I have placed in parallel columns the requests of Ben Saïd, the Moorish Commissioner, and the remarks of the Diplomatic Body.

As I mentioned in my despatch above referred to, there have been considerable discussions in regard to the grant of semsar certificates, and two points were especially considered in dealing with this category :—

1. What class of firms resident in Morocco, or who have branch establishments in the country, should be entitled to semsars; and

2. The right of non-resident firms to semsars.

With respect to the first point, there seemed to be a general wish among my colleagues to only grant semsars to firms or merchants doing a considerable trade. The custom of this Legation has always been to decline the grant of semsar certificates to merchants who are in a small way of business, and this principle has been recognized in the Memorandum by requiring that a certain volume of business should be transacted before a merchant should be entitled to semsars.

The minimum suggested by the Diplomatic Body is a modest one, and, if accepted as a basis, there would be some check on a too lavish grant of semsar certificates. The Italian Minister, however, pressed very strongly for the insertion of a clause permitting merchants who were opening business relations with Morocco to enjoy the right of semsars. Several of my colleagues and myself pointed out that such a concession would, to a great extent, nullify the restrictions we were desirous of imposing on the grant of semsars, and I urged that a "mokhalat" certificate would sufficiently protect the nascent interests of a new firm. This has been the practice of this Legation in such cases, and I have no reason to believe that this limited protection cripples the development of business relations. M. de Malmuni, nevertheless, pressed his point so strongly that the majority of my colleagues yielded to his wish, though I confess that, to my mind, a wide door is thereby opened to a large increase in the number of semsar certificates.

As regards the second point, that is, of the right of non-resident firms to semsars, your Lordship will observe that the American Representative and myself reserved our opinions. This is a point on which I regret I am not in accord with my colleagues. It seems to me illogical to refuse to those houses who unquestionably do the largest import trade with Morocco, the same privileges which are enjoyed by others.

I am aware that in the early years after the signature of the Madrid Convention non-resident British firms were not accorded semsars, but this position was abandoned, when it was found that the other Legations did not adopt the same procedure. These Legations now assert that they have reconsidered the matter, and have brought their firms within the Règlement of 1863 by insisting on their instituting branch establishments in Morocco, and they request that non-resident British firms should follow a like practice. With all due respect, I submit that there are not sufficient grounds for suggesting to Manchester and London firms that they should make a change in their methods of conducting their business, and put them to the inconvenience of establishing branches in this country. It is not from these houses that abuses as to semsars emanate. The number of their semsars is comparatively few, and the interests engaged are very considerable. I do not think that the strict letter of the Règlement of 1863 excludes them from the right of possessing semsars, even if they have no branch establishments in this country. This, indeed, as your Lordship will observe, is admitted by my colleagues, and if the spirit of the Règlement

limits semsars to resident firms only, I would also submit that the spirit of the Règlement of 1863 and of the Madrid Convention is directed to the necessity of providing protection for foreign commerce—in other words, for foreign goods. I would respectfully maintain that it is immaterial whether such goods are imported by resident or non-resident firms, so long as there is no question of the nationality of such goods. If, apart from the ordinary risks of trade, and owing to the peculiar conditions and dangers existing in this country, to meet which special precautions have had to be adopted, an injury should occur to these goods, or to those in charge of them, the loss would undoubtedly fall on the firm, it seems to me a secondary question as to the domicile of the firm, or as to whether customs duties are paid in the name of the firm or by their native purchasers.

I would beg leave to inclose a copy of a Memorandum which I addressed to the Diplomatic Body during the course of the discussions on the subject, and by which I endeavoured to meet some of the arguments of my colleagues.

The Diplomatic Body now propose to discuss a counter-project dealing with the omissions on the part of the Moorish Government to fulfil the provisions of the Madrid Convention. This question will form the subject of subsequent deliberations, and the results will eventually be communicated to our respective Governments.

A note is appended to the Memorandum inclosed in this despatch respecting the position of Brazilian-protected persons. This question is in a curious situation, as, so far as I can gather, the Moorish authorities decline to admit the rights of Brazilian-protected persons, or even to recognize the Brazilian Consular authorities, while the latter continue to exercise all the privileges accorded by the Madrid Convention, and at the same time do not consider themselves bound by its obligations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

*Memorandum.*

| *Ben Saïd's Suggestions.* | *Remarks of Diplomatic Body.* |
|---|---|
| ARTICLE I.—*Naturalized Subjects.* | |
| 1. STRICT execution of Article XV of the Convention of Madrid. | |
| 2. I beg you to look into the infractions of this Article and the corruption which has arisen therefrom. An individual leaves this happy Empire for a short time and returns pretending to have become naturalized; and he intervenes on behalf of a great number of Moorish subjects without having himself the right of being naturalized. | |
| Some of them remain in this country for a longer period than that which they spent in the country of which they have become naturalized (British) subjects, and for that reason have again become Moorish subjects. In spite of which they continually interfere on their behalf and extend their protection to numerous Moorish subjects. | |
| I beg, therefore, that in the future, when a subject of His Shereefian Majesty applies for a passport to travel in your country, you will send him first to the Chancery of the Shereefian Makhzen at Tangier; there note will be taken of him, of his name, origin, and residence, and certificate of the above will be given him, which however will in no way render the Makhzen | Comme il n'appartient pas aux Légations et aux Consulats de délivrer des passeports à d'autres que leurs nationaux il n'est pas possible de mettre en exécution la demande formulée par Ben Saïd. Le Corps Diplomatique ne peut donc s'engager qu'à apposer des visas comme il a fait jusqu'ici aux passeports délivrés par le Délégué du Sultan à Tanger. |



| *Ben Saïd's Suggestions.* | *Remarks of Diplomatic Body.* |
|---|---|
| responsible for the consequences which arise therefrom, nor will this passport given by His Shereefian Majesty's Representative imply the authorization of the Shereefian Government to the naturalization. The authorization of the Shereefian Government can only be given by a Shereefian letter, as declared at Madrid by the late Cid Mohammed Bergash in the Protocol No. 11. The above-mentioned passport would only be given to facilitate the departure of the individual from the Government of the Makhzen and also to regulate naturalization. | |
| As soon as one of the individuals returns and claims to be naturalized, the Representative of the country of which he has become a naturalized subject will notify His Shereefian Majesty's Representative by letter of the day of his arrival in the following manner. So and so has arrived from a certain country of which he has become a naturalized subject, the date of his patent is , he has lived in the country for , which is the period necessary to obtain a patent of naturalization in this country. His Shereefian Majesty's Representative will then give him a letter for the Governor of the locality which he is going to inhabit in Morocco; this letter will inform him that the bearer has become naturalized, informing him of the date and number of his patent, and the length of time which it has taken him to obtain his patent. | Les Représentants s'engagent volontiers à prévenir le Makhzen du retour d'un sujet Marocain naturalisé en pays étranger le jour où celui-ci se fera inscrire à la Légation du pays dont il aura obtenu la naturalisation. |
| If, after the termination of an equivalent length of time, the said individual should remain even a week in this country, he will be supposed to have preferred to return to the jurisdiction of the Makhzen, and will become a Moorish subject, and no excuse whatsoever for the extension of his residence will be taken. If, on the contrary, he should prefer to leave the country, he will be obliged to leave it with the whole of his family. As a matter of fact, most of the naturalized subjects in Morocco have got their homes in it and only seek naturalization as a convenience to themselves and not in the least to be useful to the country whose subjects they become. | Quant à l'obligation du naturalisé de quitter le Maroc après un séjour égal au temps qui lui a été nécessaire pour obtenir la naturalisation, les Représentants sont d'accord avec Ben Saïd; mais quant à ce qui regarde la famille du naturalisé, la Convention de Madrid n'en parlant pas, ils ne peuvent statuer sur cet objet. |
| I also beg of you to provide me with a list of the protégés that each one of you have in this country, with industry, date, and patent of which they were bearers on their return from the country from which they have obtained naturalization, and also the legal time which has been necessary to obtain the said naturalization, in order that they may be treated in accordance to the conditions. | |

*Ben Saïd's Suggestions.*

ARTICLE II.—*Protégés.*

1. Strict execution of the prescriptions of Article XVI of the Convention of Madrid.

2. I beg that you inform me who are your protégés in accordance with Article XVI, the reason for which they are protected, and the recognition of their protection by His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan.

3. I also request an authentic copy of the list established in 1880 of your protégés before the Convention of Madrid.

ARTICLE III.—*Semsars.*

Semsars will be subject to the stipulations of the Convention of 1863 and by Article X of the Convention of Madrid.

Semsars will only be granted to merchants who have a house of commerce of importance, engaged in importation or exportation. They will be obliged each year to produce a receipt of the Umanas in order that a check may be kept on their continued right to have semsars; or whether, owing to a cessation of business, a semsar is no longer necessary.

Numerous abuses and inconveniences have resulted from semsars being granted to merchants and to protégés who had no right to them.

Moreover, great harm has been done to the Makhzen by semsars taken in the country.

In fact, most of the country semsars make themselves a business thereby, not limiting themselves to their duties as semsars of buying and selling, but conducting themselves like Governors, collecting a number of people round them, and supporting them in their refusal to pay taxes and contributions to the Makhzen, and treat them as subjects and make partisans of them. When the Governor makes a complaint about them the complaint is always turned against him.

I beg of you to look into the situation as regards country semsars. All semsars must be of the town; and if a semsar in both town and country be necessary, one must be only for the town and the other exclusively for the country, and subject to the conditions that they do not make agglomerations around them, and that semsars will only be accorded to protégés or merchants in accordance with the Treaties.

ARTICLE IV.—*Mokhalats.*

This word is not mentioned in the Convention, therefore, it is asked that it be abolished from conversation and correspon-

*Remarks of Diplomatic Body.*

La traduction Française dit que les censaux ne seront accordés qu'aux "commerçants en gros;" le mot Arab paraît signifier "commerçants importants. Pour faciliter l'interprétation des mots "commerçants importants," les Légations tombent d'accord pour reconnaître qu'auront droit à des censaux les maisons de commerce se livrant à l'importation ou à l'exportation ou deux branches de commerce ensemble, dont les opérations atteignent un chiffre annuel d'affaires réellement importants constaté d'après leur livre de commerce et les récépissés du droit de douane par eux payés.

Pour l'une des bases d'appréciation du chiffre d'affaires constituant un commerce important on pourrait prendre 10,000 douros d'affaires annuelles et 1,000 douros de droits de douane sous réserve que cette indication ne s'appliquerait pas aux négociants qui seraient encore dans la période de début. Si les Gouvernements saisis approuvent cette base d'appreciation les Légations la prendront pour règle; mais il reste entendu qu'on répondra à Ben Saïd que les Légations restent seules juges de l'importance du commerce de leurs nationaux.

Les observations de Ben Saïd relativement aux censaux de la campagne sont inadmissible; s'il y a des abus le Makhzen devra s'adresser à chaque Légation; quant aux comptoirs ou succursales donnant droit à des censaux on reconnaît que les prescriptions de la Convention de Madrid sont suffisantes.

Ben Saïd proposant dans les conversations et correspondances la snppression du mot "Mokhalat," qui n'est pas mentionné dans



*Ben Saïd's Suggestions.*

dence and that only the words servant, agricultural labourer, pastor of sheep—or other similar domestic animals, be used according to the Convention of Madrid of 1880, and the Convention of 1863.

I beg you will assist us in appointing the number of these servants and agricultural labourers, and pastors of domestic animals which each foreign merchant has a right to, in proportion to his trade, so that he shall not exceed the designated number agreed upon.

There shall be testimony against the agricultural labourer or pastor of what he has of the merchant in his charge drawn up by town adools and not by country adools.

The document of testimony shall be renewed at the beginning of each year according to the rule of commercial accounts, as also the certificate of his employment shall be renewed, and if a document is produced anterior to the date, or a certificate other than the renewed one, no account will be taken of it, and the Makhzen authorities will not give a decision in the future for a document unless renewed.

And if the Moorish authorities ask the merchants employing him, through the intermediary of his Consul, to inspect the documents attested against him belonging to the said merchant so that he may know what he holds of the merchant's property and what he holds of his own in order that he may pay the Makhzen dues thereon the same as his brethren, the Consul shall furnish him with them, and any person preferring the excuse that he has no documents from the merchant, what he may say afterwards will not be heard.

Also when these servants and agricultural labourers, and pastors of domestic animals are called upon to go to Haka (Government expedition) along with their brethren, or to fulfil Makhzen duties, the Governor shall inform the Consul of that nation in order that he may order the owner of the domestic animals or the ploughing to send some one to superintend his property, that it may not be left to perish and to safeguard the property of the merchants. The Makhzen will concede to them a term of ten days from the date of the Governor's notification (for this purpose) and after the ten days have elapsed he will have freedom of action over them and nothing further can be said by his employer, and this will apply to other matters besides assault, wounding, or killing, which are mentioned in the Convention.

*Remarks of Diplomatic Body.*

la Convention de Madrid. On est disposé à accéder à son désir, à condition que le principe de l'association agricole et commerciale entre Européens et Marocains soit garanti et que tous les associés soient compris dans les dispositions de l'Article IX de la Convention de Madrid.

On ne saurait s'engager à fixer une fois pour toutes le nombre des domestiques ou employés dont aura besoin chaque négociant.

On n'admets pas l'exclusion des notaires de campagne.

On ne saurait admettre non plus la prétention d'exiger le renouvellement annuel pour les notaires quels qu'ils soient des documents constatant ce qui a été confié par les négociants à chaque employé de culture; en revanche, on ne saurait se refuser au renouvellement annuel des patentes de Mokhalata.

Cette proposition de Ben Saïd est acceptée à la condition que les documents dont il s'agit pourront être renouvelés quand les conditions de l'association viendraient à se modifier. Le Makhzen devra prêter tout son concours à l'établissement de ces documents.

Quant au service militaire des Mokhalata, ce droit du Sultan d'appeler ses sujets pour le départ de la Haka (année militaire) ne peut faire l'objet d'une date; mais on décide d'intervenir auprès de Ben Saïd pour discuter avec lui de la possibilité de remplacement. S'il n'est pas possible de l'obtenir le Corps Diplomatique exigera pour le départ des Mokhalata un délai suffisant qui ne peut être moins de trente jours.

*Ben Saïd's Suggestions.*

ARTICLE V. — *Payment of Agricultural Taxes ("Zaka" and "Jachan," Legal Dues and Tithes).*

In the matter of legal alms and tithes agreed upon at Tangier in accordance with Article XII of the Madrid Convention, and the claims drawn up at Tangier on this subject, the Makhzen requests with confidence from the Representatives of the friendly respected Powers (the payment of) what is owing by foreign subjects, protégés, the majority of their partners and dependants, who have neglected to pay, so that none of this may remain, and that they shall pay each year in accordance with the clauses drawn up on this subject. As also the Makhzen requests the Representatives of the Powers to recommend the Consuls and their substitutes to give their help and good offices so that the whole of what is owed may be collected, and to act in this matter in accordance with the Conventions.

*Remarks of Diplomatic Body.*

Le Règlement de 1881 auquel se réfère Ben Saïd relativement à l'impôt agricole a été reconnu inapplicable et ne saurait donc être invoqué.

ARTICLE VI.

None shall be named employé save he who is engaged in his work and actually attending to it. But as to him who is so only in name, and is occupied in another place with his own affairs, he shall not be so named because of the harm caused by them and the infraction created thereby.

L'Article VI est accepté tel quel.

ARTICLE VII.

It is requested of the Representatives of the Great Powers that the lists for the ensuing year 1900 may be entirely in conformity with the Madrid Treaty, because of the violations which the lists at present contain, among which is the taking of a semsar in Morocco by a merchant residing in Morocco, and having no business house open in his name as required by Treaty. Notwithstanding that the merchant himself only buys merchandize for them on commission, and other matters which were wont to be treated with indulgence until they resulted in immense harms, causing the Makhzen to endure many troubles.

Le Corps Diplomatique veillera à ce que les listes soient conformes à la Convention de Madrid.

Sir Arthur Nicolson et Mr. Gummeré réservent leurs opinions relativement à la question des censaux des maisons de commerce sises en Europe.

Bien que le texte strictement examiné du Règlement de 1863 ait pu autoriser certaines nations à faire un usage plus large du censaux, la demande de Ben Saïd, qui exigeait la présence au Maroc des Représentants des maisons de commerce semble pourtant, d'après l'interprétation de la majorité du Corps Diplomatique, conforme à l'esprit du Règlement.

---



*Note.*

A la réunion du 3 Mars, 1900, l'examen des propositions de Ben Saïd ayant pris fin, on se préoccupe de la situation privilégiée dont jouissent les nationaux et naturalisés Brésiliens. On décide de demander au Makhzen des explications relativement au traitement de particulière faveur dont ils bénéficient au Maroc par le fait de la non-adhésion du Brésil à la Convention de Madrid. Il s'en est suivi une correspondance avec Ben Saïd qui, sans éclaircir nettement le point de vue du Makhzen dans la question, a abouti finalement à la situation anormale créée actuellement par Cid Mohammed Torres au Consul du Brésil à Tanger. M. le Ministre d'Espagne est plus directement intéressé à élucider cette question, vu la protection des nationaux des Républiques Sud-Américaines qui lui incombe et l'établissement qui s'y rattache des Consulats de ces Républiques.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

*Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.*

I WOULD wish to explain more clearly than perhaps I have done hitherto my point of view in regard to the question of semsars for commercial houses resident in Great Britain, and who have not branch establishments in this country.

I desire, in the first place, to state that no non-resident British firm has more than two semsars for the whole of Morocco.

The question is, have these firms a right to semsars or have they not?

For my part, I have a strong opinion that neither the Convention of Madrid nor the Règlement of 1863 forbids their right. It appears to me very clear that the Règlement of 1863, as well as the Madrid Convention, desired to protect foreign commerce in Morocco, and that the number of semsars was limited so that a door should not be opened to abuses, that is to say, to prevent an undue increase of the number of Moorish subjects enjoying foreign protection.

In my opinion it would be difficult to maintain that British firms non-resident in Morocco, and who have important interests engaged in the country, should not have a right to the same protection as resident British houses whose interests may be of less importance.

At a recent meeting the opinion was expressed that if non-resident firms did not pay in their own name the import duties, the commerce which they carried on was no longer an import trade, but a national or Moorish trade, and that, therefore, it was outside the provisions of the Madrid Convention; in other words, that if the goods are shipped to the account of the Moorish purchaser, once they are placed on board, the exporting house has no longer any further interest in them. I am only a layman in such matters, but admitting that the above theory, technically speaking, is quite correct, the goods, nevertheless, always remain British imports, and if any misfortunes befall them or the purchaser, it is the house in Great Britain which suffers the loss. I may be permitted to observe that the misfortunes to which I allude are not those which attend the ordinary risks and perils to which trade is everywhere exposed, but arise from conditions special to this country, and to guard, as far as possible, against which the Conventions were drawn up. Further, an argument which might have great weight in a civilized country changes its character when applied to a situation such as exists in Morocco.

Bills of lading and manifests give all necessary information as to the origin of goods, and the Legation is in a position to judge without difficulty as to whether the non-resident British firm does an important trade with Morocco or not.

At our last meeting an observation was made that possibly a foreign agent of a non-resident British firm, if he paid the customs duties in his own name, might take advantage of this circumstance to obtain semsars on his own account from his Legation by showing the Customs receipts. In short, that the goods which passed through his hands might receive a double protection, *i.e.*, that of the British firm and that of the Legation under whose protection the agent is. In the first place, I would remark that none of us give semsars to our protégés. Our nationals alone enjoy that right. Therefore, in the above-mentioned case, the danger which is indicated could only arise in the case of a foreign subject who was the agent of a non-resident British firm. I do not know if such instances occur; but admitting that they do, an examination of the books of the agent would easily control the statements of the latter. If such an individual really carries on trade on his

own account, and if he is cosmopolitan enough to favour British or other trade, I do not see any objection against his receiving semsars in that case.

I would beg leave to recapitulate my points of view (1) that non-resident firms have an equal right to semsars, and are equally in need of protection as firms established in Morocco; (2) that neither the Règlement of 1863 nor the Convention of Madrid specifically excludes non-resident firms; (3) that the nationality of the goods is proved by the bills of lading and the manifests. I should also wish to state two facts: (1) that no non-resident British firm has more than two semsars for the whole of Morocco; and (2) that they do not abuse the concessions made by the Convention of Madrid; and that their interests are far too important to permit me to suggest any curtailment of these concessions.

I am always desirous of being in agreement with my colleagues in regard to the interpretation of Conventions, and no one is more anxious than myself to control and remedy any abuses which may exist; but without instructions from my Government, I frankly avow that I do not venture to endanger the considerable interests of which I am, in a certain sense, the guardian, especially as I am firmly convinced that the firms in question carry on a very considerable, legitimate, and honourable trade, and faithfully observe the Conventions with respect to the number of their semsars.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

*Tangier, February* 12, 1901.

---

No. 49.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 29.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, March* 15, 1901.

I AM informed that the Sultan, who intended to leave Morocco city for Fez about the middle of next month, has deferred his departure owing to the outbreak of certain disturbances in the Sus Province.

I have, as yet, been unable to procure any trustworthy information as to the nature and extent of these disturbances; but I am given to understand that they are not of so serious a character as has been reported in the local press here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 50.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 105.)

My Lord,

*Paris, March* 20, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting on military operations in Southern Algeria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 18.)

Sir,

*Paris, March* 19, 1901.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, some details which I have gathered from the military press concerning the movements at present taking place in Southern Algeria. The importance of these movements is indicated by the fact that the Generals commanding the Algiers and Oran divisions are both in command of columns.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

---



Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

*Memorandum respecting Operations under General Servières.*

GENERAL SERVIÈRES' Report on the recent operations against the Berbers, who attacked Timmimoum on the 18th ultimo, has been received.

The General says that the enemy fled to the Charrouin district after Timmimoum, this district having always been favourable to them.

On the 28th February his column of 600 men was opposed at Charrouin just as he was preparing to penetrate into the oasis. A fight ensued, in which the Berbers lost many killed and wounded, and the French two killed and seven wounded, of which three officers.

On the 1st March General Servières, who had come from Adrar by forced marches, ordered a reconnaissance to select an artillery position for the bombardment of the kasbah, or village.

On the 2nd General Servières advanced towards the village, and the Berbers fled into the sand dunes, but making sufficient resistance to cause a loss to the French of two officers, four French and nineteen native soldiers killed, besides two officers and thirty-six men wounded.

The next day the Djeman of Charrouin came in and made his submission, which was accepted by General Servières under very severe conditions, including the handing over of five Chiefs as hostages, dismantling of villages, and payment of a large indemnity.

These terms were accepted, and General Servières occupied the town on the 5th instant.

General Servières announced his intention of leaving for Tahuin on the 6th instant.

*Operations under General Risbourg.*

It having been reported that the Morocco tribes encamped near El-Aricha were in revolt, a battalion of the 2nd Tirailleurs and a squadron of the 2nd Chasseurs d'Afrique have been sent as reinforcements to the French troops already holding Tlemcen against possible incursions over the frontier.

General Risbourg, who is now directing a column protecting General Servières' right flank, arrived at Beni-Abbes on the 2nd March, where he hoisted the French flag.

The next day he left for El-Piatat, in the centre of the Ghemanena district, where submission was also made. A post which will command the Saoura Wady will be organized here.

The Marabout of Kerzaz, whose influence is considerable, wrote to welcome General Risbourg, and to tell him that the Berbers, threatened by the combined movement of the two French columns, were inclined to return home.

Colonel Billet on the 7th March was descending the Saoura Wady and marching on Kerzaz.

Two reconnaissance and police posts ("maghzens") are to be formed in the extreme south by order of the Governor-General, and the Duveyrier–Igli Railway is to be actively pushed forward.

As an example of the quickness with which reinforcements have been furnished for the ssuth of Algeria, the following instance of what occurred on the night of the 10th instant is quoted with pride by the military press here.

At 4 A.M. came an order from the Officer Commanding 19th Corps for a half-battalion to leave at once for Mecheria. At 7 A.M. the two companies, with their doctor, left by train under the command of Adjutant-Major Bouillon.

On the 9th instant the Staff and two companies of the 4th Battalion 2nd Algerian Tirailleurs, a squadron of the 2nd Chasseurs d'Afrique, and a peloton of the 2nd Spahis left for El-Aricha under the command of Major Bichemin.

(N.B.—Part of this force reported before.)

A later telegram, dated Oran, 16th March, states that a flying column is being formed in the south by detachments sent from various garrisons. This column, it is said, is organized with a view to eventualities which may arise from the turbulent attitude of the Hamyans, from the El-Aricha district, who have crossed the frontier to join hostile tribes in Morocco.

Other movements are notified. At Saida the troops have received orders to hold all material at the immediate disposal of the authorities.

Six hundred men left Ain Sefra on the 15th instant, and a squadron of Chasseurs has received orders to leave Mascara.

On the 15th instant, during a snow storm, two pelotons of the 5th Spahis squadron left for Ain-bel-Khelil, near Mecheria; and it is at this spot that the flying column spoken of above still probably concentrate. The rest of the squadron is expected to follow shortly.

On the 15th instant two companies Tirailleurs, a squadron of Chasseurs, and a half-squadron of Spahis arrived at El-Aricha from Sidi-M'djaheb. The destination of this force is unknown.

On the 15th instant a detachment of the Foreign Legion left Sidi-bel-Abbes for Mecheria. The detachment consists of a company of the 1st Regiment, under a Captain and two Lieutenants.

---

No. 51.

*Intelligence Division to Foreign Office.—(Received March 23.)*

THE Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward, for his perusal, a Memorandum on affairs in Algeria which has been prepared by Captain A. Lynden-Bell, of this Department.

18, *Queen Anne's Gate, London,*
*March* 22, 1901.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

*Memorandum respecting Affairs in Algeria.*

IN October 1900 it was generally supposed, in France and elsewhere, that as soon as the cold weather set in vigorous measures would be taken against the troublesome tribesmen in the Igli, Figuig, Timmimoum, and Insalah districts. It certainly seemed that at any rate in the Igli and Figuig regions active military operations were in contemplation, for the French line of communication from Ain Sefra to Igli was largely reinforced, and supplies for 7,000 men were collected at Ain Sefra. When, however, M. Jounart took over the post of Governor-General of Algeria, a new policy was given out. It was announced that no active operations were to take place in the Igli and Figuig districts, and that operations in the Timmimoum and Insalah districts were to be limited to such as might be found necessary by a column which was to be dispatched under General Servières to revictual and relieve the garrisons of these districts. It was specially enjoined on Commanders that no action was to be taken that "might lead to developments."

In pursuance of these instructions, General Servières, commanding the Algiers Division, started with a small escort towards the end of 1900 on a tour of inspection and "pacification" to the extreme south. He appears to have traversed a large portion of the Insalah and Timmimoum country, to have received protestations of submission from various tribesmen, and to have returned north thoroughly satisfied with the success of his pacific methods.

About the 12th January, 1901, General Servières once more started south. His object now was the relief of the garrisons of Insalah and Timmimoum, and he had with him—

A detachment of the 1st African Battalion,
2½ companies Saharian Tirailleurs,
4 pelotons Saharian Spahis,
2 sections artillery,
1 goum of 100 mounted men,
And a convoy of 3,000 camels.

The General at first met with no opposition, and, apparently having relieved the garrisons of Insalah and Timmimoum, he began his return journey north. On the 24th February, however, a few days after the departure of General Servières from Timmimoum, the garrison of that place was attacked by about 1,000 Berbers. The



attack was repulsed with a loss of 100 to the Berbers, but the French lost 9 killed (including 3 officers) and 27 wounded, *i.e.*, about one-fifth of the garrison. General Servières, hearing of this attack, started in pursuit of the offending Berbers, and on the 28th February came on a party of them at Charrouin. This party was defeated and dispersed. Desultory fighting was continued, however, till the 3rd March, when the inhabitants of the Charrouin district tendered their submission. General Servières accepted the surrender, after inflicting various fines, and on the 5th March occupied the town of Charrouin. Meanwhile, on the 15th February, General Risbourg, Commanding Oran Division, with 250 goumiers, 2 companies of Tirailleurs, and a section of artillery left Ain Sefra on a journey southward. The precise objects of this movement are not clear, but the objects were stated to be—

1. To "pacify" the tribesmen between Ain Sefra and Igli;
2. To establish a post at Beni-Abbes (south of Igli);
3. To protect the flank of General Servières' column, and eventually to join hands with it.

This column has met with no opposition.

A post has been established at Beni-Abbes, the submission of a number of tribesmen has been accepted, and General Risbourg's advanced guard, under Colonel Billet, should have arrived at Kerzaz on the 7th March.

Whilst all this has been going on in South Algeria, the northern part of the province has not been altogether quiet. A revolt has broken out amongst the tribesmen at El Aricha, which, is undisputed French territory. To deal with this disturbance, two companies of Tirailleurs and a squadron of Chasseurs have been sent from Tlemcen.

*Present Situation on the Frontier.*

The positions of the columns of Generals Servières and Risbourg have been described above.

At Igli there are about 1,000 men and 4 guns.

At Ain Sefra 7 companies of Tirailleurs and 2 guns.

There are various posts between Ain Sefra and Igli, the principal ones being Hedjerat-M'Guil, Duveyrier, Djenan-el-Dar, and Taghit.

The garrison of these places is not accurately known, but the number of troops stationed between Igli and Ain Sefra (both places inclusive) was in December 1900 as follows:—

7 battalions Infantry.
2 battalions Foreign Legion.
1 battalion African Light Infantry.
2 squadrons Chasseurs d'Afrique.
2 sections Field Artillery.

(It is probable that General Risbourg's force is partly drawn from the above.)

At Beni-Abbes, Timmimoum, and Insalah there are garrisons varying from 100 to 200 men, and the two latter places are believed to have a couple of field-guns each. A post will very probably be established at Kerzaz.

*General Result of Recent Operations.*

(*a.*) The region between Ain Sefra and Igli has been to a certain extent cleared of hostile tribesmen, and the state of affairs in this region may before long permit of the pushing forward of the railway to Igli. (The "Projet de Loi" for this extension has been voted in the French Chambers.)

(*b.*) A chain of outposts has been established connecting Igli with Timmimoum and Insalah.

(*c.*) The turbulent Touaregs and Doui Menia, though they have suffered several defeats, do not seem to be yet subdued. The French, however, seem to be in a fair way to starving them into submission, as they have seized all the most important oases where the dates are grown, which form the principal food of the tribesmen of these parts.

(*d.*) In spite of many rumours to the contrary, it does not appear that the French have made any further encroachments on to Moorish territory, but it would seem rather that they are anxious, at present, to avoid any conflict with Morocco.

(Signed) A. LYNDEN-BELL,
*Staff Captain.*

*March* 19, 1901.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

*Sketch Map.*

[Not printed.]

---

No. 52.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 27, 1901.

MY telegram No. 4 of the 27th ultimo.

The United States' Representative has received a communication from the Moorish Government, expressing their readiness to receive him in April. A man-of-war has arrived here to convey him down the coast, and he will leave on it in a few days. His orders are, when at Court, to insist on a disavowal of all the irregularities and incivilities towards him on the part of the Moorish Government and their officials, as well as the immediate payment of all claims.

---

No. 53.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 26 of the 8th instant, inclosing a draft of a scheme for the reorganization of the Tangier police force, and requesting instructions on the question whether the scheme should not contain a provision whereby authority would be granted to the police to arrest foreign subjects.

In respect of the arrest, &c., of the nationals of those Powers which possess extra-territorial jurisdiction in Morocco, the scheme should, in my opinion, follow the general lines which govern the proceedings in analogous circumstances of the Turkish police in the Ottoman dominions.

I transmit, for your confidential information, copies of two Memoranda which were drawn up by the late Librarian of this Office,* from which it will be seen (amongst other things) that a foreigner in Turkey does not enjoy immunity from personal arrest, but that the Turkish authorities are bound within twenty-four hours to give notice of the arrest to his Consul.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

* Memorandum, January 3, 1879; ditto, January 26, 1880.



No. 54.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Paris, March* 29, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of the 7th instant, and previous correspondence relative to French designs on the Southern Morocco frontier, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the second of a series of articles entitled "Au Touat," extracted from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of to-day. The first of the series, pubished yesterday, is hardly, I think, of importance enough to trouble your Lordship with a copy, but the present article brings out two points of interest in connectien with the intended prolongation of the Oran–Aïn Sefra railway line to Igli.

It states, in the first place, as regards that portion of the projected line for which plans have been definitely adopted, that the railway will run to a point only 5 or 6 kilom. distant from the oasis of Figuig. As regards the prolongation of the line beyond Djenan-ed-Dar, two alternative lines are stated to be under consideration. The one follows the Oued Zousfana, the other runs south-west, viâ Kenadsa, to the Oued Guir, and follows the river bed to its junction with the Zousfana at Igli. If the latter project is carried out, the French frontier is, *ipso facto*, advanced at least as far west as the Oued Guir, and the greater part of the countries ranged over by the Doui Menia and the Ouled Djerir is included in Algerian territory.

Such an arrangement could not, of course, be viewed by the Morocco Government without concern, and it may, perhaps, have been in M. Cambon's mind when he approached your Lordship lately on the question of the South Algerian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 54.

*Extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of March* 29, 1901.

AU TOUAT.—Pour le moment, notre rôle dans l'Extrême-Sud est limité; nous ne pensons qu'à pousser notre voie ferrée sur le terrain nouvellement battu ou occupé, et à pénétrer plus avant dans le Sahara vers le Niger.

Nous pourrons, lorsque la période de tension aura pris fin, lorsque notre frontière sera calme, lorsque les tribus hostiles seront devenues neutres sinon définitivement soumises, ne conserver que des tampons pour nous séparer des Marocains et occuper le pays, non pas avec des troupes régulières mais avec les indigènes eux-mêmes constitués en maghrzen; enfin, attirer à nous les tribus Marocaines par notre commerce et les moyens perfectionnés de culture et de transport dont nous pourrons disposer.

La sécurité de nos possessions du Touat est absolument dépendante de l'occupation effective de tous les ksour situés sur l'oued Saoura ou dans ses environs immédiats. Le Général Risbourg a planté notre drapeau aux Beni-Abbès qui constituent des oasis assez prospères; le Marabout de Kerzas a déjà donné l'assurance de ces dispositions pacifiques et bienviellantes; un peu à l'est du cours de l'oued, Charouin, Brinkau, et Metarfa sont désormais sous notre dépendance; reste Adrar, l'un des ksour les plus importants du Touat; l'année dernière le Général Servière y reçut le meilleur accueil bien qu'il ne fût escorté que du seul goum du Capitaine Pein. Un poste a-t-il été laissé à Adrar cette année, ainsi que le Général l'aurait établi dès l'année dernière s'il ne s'était heurté à quelques difficultés de la part du commandement militaire supérieur? Les dépêches reçues sont restées muettes jusqu'ici à cet égard, mais il est évident que pour tenir effectivement la route du Touat il faudra occuper fortement le centre.

Les deux colonnes réunies vont-elles suivre l'oued Saoura pour se diriger vers le nord, sur Igli, ou, la jonction opérée, chacune va-t-elle refaire en sens inverse le chemin parcouru? La première hypothèse est la plus probable.

Quoi qu'il en soit, il conviendrait de profiter de ce retour pour étudier le pays en vue de l'adoption d'un tracé définitive du prolongement de la voie ferrée de

Djenan-ed-Dar vers Igli, au confluent des oued Guir et Zousfana, soit par Kenadsa et l'oued Guir, soit par la Zousfana. J'ai déjà montré les avantages que présente le tracé par Kenadsa.

Il faut, en un mot, suivre de ce côté une politique énergique et bien définie, et rompre définitivement avec le système des opérations et des tempéraments.

L'attaque des Berabers nous permet d'étendre nos prétentions du côté du Tafilalet, tant par mesure de répression pour l'incursion commise à main armée et les attaques effectuées, que par mesure de prudence et de sécurité pour l'avenir; il faut refouler les tribus pillardes; sans aller jusqu'à préconiser, comme certains confrères, la ruine totale des cultures des Doui Menia et la destruction de leurs palmiers et de leurs silos de la plaine de Khechaab, il serait bon qu'un vigoureux exemple leur imposât pour l'avenir une conduite moins tracassière; nous pourrions nous faire aider dans cette démonstration par les Hamyans, nos auxiliaires dévoués qui nourrissent toujours une vieille et légitime rancune à l'égard des Doui Menia, qui les ont autrefois chassés de leur pays, et seraient enchantés de prendre leur revanche avec l'appui de nos troupes. Cette démonstration terminée on créerait pour eux une organisation politique s'appuyant sur une force suffisante et placée de telle façon qu'elle leur inspire pour notre domination une salutaire et inébranlable sympathie; ils ne tarderaient guère à devenir d'utiles auxiliaires.

De même qu'on ne permettrait pas, en Europe, qu'une province s'insurge contre une nation, de même nous pouvons nous réclamer de l'mpuissance de l'Empereur du Maroc pour agir par nous-mêmes et choisir pour notre voie de pénétration l'itinéraire le plus favorable, tant au point de vue économique qu'au point de vue de la sécurité des territoires sous notre dépendance, par la création d'une base sérieuse d'opérations en cas de conflits à venir, et qu'il faut toujours prévoir.

L'occasion est unique; il serait regrettable que nous en sachions pas profiter, sauf à vouloir nous résigner, n'ayant pas su nous résigner à vouloir.]

*La Voie Ferrée de Duveyrier à Igli.*

Par une Loi promulguée le 25 Février dernier, l'établissement du chemin de fer d'Aïn Sefra à Djenien Bou Rezg et à Duveyrier, dans la direction d'Igli, a été déclaré d'utilité publique; la même Loi dit qu'il sera pourvu aux dépenses d'établissement du chemin de fer, au moyen des crédits qui seront mis chaque année pour cet objet à la disposition du Ministre des Travaux Publics.

Le crédit affecté cette année à ces travaux est de 11,000,000 fr. et il est probable qu'il ne sera pas inférieur à ce chiffre pour les années suivantes.

Le tracé du prolongement vers Igli, au delà de Duveyrier, point terminus du chemin de fer existant actuellement, a été adopté jusqu'après la traversée de l'oued Zousfana, aux environs de Djenan-ed-Dar. C'est à la construction de cette partie de la ligne exclusivement que vont être consacrés les premiers crédits; on sait déjà que cette construction sera confiée à la main-d'œuvre militaire, et que c'est un bataillon be 800 hommes du 5e Génie de Versailles, qui en sera chargé.

En quittant Duveyrier, la nouvelle ligne franchira le petit oued Zoubia, affluent de l'oued Dermel, pour se diriger au sud-sud-ouest, presque en ligne droite sur Aïn Sefra de Figuig, qu'il ne faut pas confondre avec Ain Sefra du Département d'Oran, centre de la subdivision militaire; pendant la presque totalité de ce parcours la ligne longe à droite, la piste que suivent les caravanes qui, de Duveyrier, se dirigent vers le sud.

Aïn Sefra de Figuig est le point de cette partie de la ligne le plus rapproché de la grande oasis de Figuig, dont il n'est distant que de 5 à 6 kilom.

C'est à Beni Ounif, dans le voisinage immédiat de Figuig, que le Marabout Bou-Amama est campé avec sa smala et ses serviteurs.

A partir d'Aïn Sefra de Figuig, la ligne fait un coude assez brusque vers le sud-est, et court parallèlement à la Zousfana, sur la rive droite de cet oued, qu'elle traverse près du confluent du Dermel, et se dirige sur Djenan-ed-Dar, dont la gare desservira l'oasis de Figuig. De Duveyrier à Djenan-ed-Dar il y a 32 kilom.

La construction de ce tronçon de la ligne projetée vers Igli ne comporte comme travaux d'arts importants, que le pont de franchissement de la Zousfana.

Au delà de l'oued Zousfana, à partir des environs de Djenan-ed-Dar, le tracé vers Igli n'a pas encore été définitivement adopté. Un premier projet longe sur sa rive gauche l'oued Zousfana, qui coule du nord au sud, et passant par El Adjouz, arriverait à Igli au confluent de l'oued Guir.



Un second projet consiste à diriger la ligne sud-sud-ouest, par le col d'Aïn Saïd, Mérirès, les dernières pentes des montagnes Béchard, Kenadsa, jusqu'à l'oued Guir. et la redressant vers le sud, lui ferait atteindre Igli en restant sur la rive droite de l'oued.

Ce second projet comporte un parcours un peu plus long, mais il présente sur le premier des avantages considérables aux points de vue stratégique, politique, et d'exploitation.

De la Zousfana à Igli par le premier projet on compte 220 kilom., tandis qu'on en compte 250 par le second.

La carte au 320 millièmes environ que nous publions aujourd'hui* permettra à nos lecteurs de se rendre compte du tracé du projet définitif de la ligne de Duveyrier à la Zousfana, et au delà dans la direction d'Igli, de l'amorce des deux projets à l'étude dont nous publierons incessamment le reste du tracé.

*Errata.*—Sur la carte ci-contre, il faut lire Djenan-ed-Daz, au petit cercle surmonté d'un drapeau, qui se trouve au croisement du pointillé nouveau projet, avec l'extrémité sud de la piste venant de Duveyrier, à mi-distance de Zenaga de Figuig et du confluent de l'oued Dermel et de l'oued Zousfana

---

No. 55.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March* 23, 1901.

I REGRET to have to report that the information which I receive from various districts in the interior in regard to the condition of the country is not satisfactory, as the provincial Governors appear to be acting in many instances in a very oppressive manner, and practising much extortion on the people. Some of the districts neighbouring to Fez are much disturbed; and I beg leave to transmit copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod describing the action taken by Government troops against the peaceable tribe of the Zrhana. I venture to communicate this despatch to your Lordship as an instance of the policy of Government officials even towards well-disposed and law-abiding people.

From Daralbaida I received similar reports, while the rumours which reach the public of the disaffection in the Sus add to the general feeling of unrest.

It is unfortunate that, while affairs on the Algerian frontier have a somewhat threatening aspect, the Central Government should allow their provincial officials to alienate the sympathies of the people by their exactions and oppressions. If the natives meet with no protection from their own authorities, they may, not unnaturally, be indisposed to rally round the Government in the event of their support being required.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 55.

*Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 6.)

Sir, *Fez, March* 11, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to state that about three months ago the Zrhana mixed Riffs and Arabs, inhabiting the Zarhon mountains, were tranferred from the jurisdiction of the Basha, Abdelkrim Eshshirgui of New Fez to that of Hadj-ben-Aissa-ben-Hamoo, Governor of Mequinez.

Their new Governor, who is understood to have paid a large sum to the Court for this addition to his command, began almost immediately to recoup this outlay by a series of arbitrary levies of money from them. The first and second levies, about 5,000 dollars each, were paid with some grumbling, but on a third one being demanded the Zrhana refused to pay it and appealed to the Sultan to restore them to their former Basha. The Court, however, supported the new Governor, and on the 6th instant a battalion of infantry and some 200 cavalry, under Kaid Mohammed-al-Bohari, encamped near the Uzala of Beni Amar and demanded food, forage, and the like.

* Not reproduced.

These the people, alleging that the crops there belonged to their partners in Fez, refused to supply, except upon payment, or in compliance with a Shereefian Order in that sense, an Order the troops did not possess. It was then agreed that payment would be made, but before the supplies could arrive, certain of the soldiers were observed stealing the growing barley, and on their refusing to desist the Zrhana began "sniping" at them, with the result that one soldier was killed.

Enraged by this the Commander of the troops attacked the little town of Beni Amar and an adjacent village during the night, but was repulsed with what loss has not yet transpired. The defenders, however, lost, in killed alone, about thirty-three, the heads of fourteen of whom the troops secured for exhibition over the gates of Fez and Mequinez.

The Zrhana, however, did not follow up the success and the troops were subsequently retired to the east side of the valley, on the western slope of which the town of Beni Amar is situated.

No further fighting has taken place, the Zrhana, according to the news just received, having made the usual sacrifices at the camp and sought peace.

To this the Commander of the troops has agreed, provided only that the Zrhana comply with their Governor's demand and become reconciled to him. Deputations of them have since gone to Mequinez to do this, and it is hoped the trouble is now over.

However successful in the event, the action of the Commander seems to have been very imprudent. Had the Zrhana followed up their success by looting the camp and scattering the troops, an outbreak of general lawlessness in that locality, through which the high road, Fez–Rabat and Fez–Laraiche and Tangier runs, would have occurred, in addition to which such a disaster would assuredly have given great encouragement to the Berber tribes south of the line Fez–Mequinez, who have for some time been more than usually lawless.

Another body of troops, roughly equal in strength to Kaid Mohamed-el-Bokharis, had, it is true, remained at Chirada, some 20 miles from the scene of the fighting referred to, but even with this support he could hardly have resisted the whole of Zrhana (some 4,000 or 5,000 rifles) whom a prolongation of the struggle would have brought together.

Amongst authorities and the public alike here the Zrhana, both as a law-abiding and industrious tribe, and on account of the provocations they have received, are generally sympathized with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

No. 56.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 24, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a paragraph from the "Réveil du Maroc" referring to the attitude of the Moorish Government in regard to the hostility evinced by certain Berber tribes in Tafilelt towards the recent action of the French authorities on the southern frontier.

I have little doubt that this paragraph has been suggested by the French Legation, and its warnings and observations are, therefore, I submit, of some significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 56.

*Extract from the "Réveil du Maroc" of March* 21, 1901.

ON lira ci-après des détails circonstanciés des combats qui ont eu lieu après l'attaque de Timmimoun entre les troupes Françaises et les Berabers qui avaient attaqué ce poste le 18 Février.

Tout fait espérer que le châtiment exemplaire infligé aux Berabers, en exerçant une terreur salutaire sur les tribus nomades des confins du Maroc, mettra fin à leurs agressions. Pour que cet acte de répression, qui nous a d'ailleurs coûté quelques pertes sensibles, ait son plein effet, il faut cependant que l'attitude et le langage des agents du Makzen au Tafilet, ne laissent subsister désormais le moindre doute sur la plénitude de nos droits, dans les territoires occupés par nos troupes. Le Gouvernement Marocain connaît bien l'état d'esprit des populations de l'extrême Tafilet. Il sait jusqu'à quel point il serait dangereux, dans les circonstances actuelles, de laisser exploiter contre nous leur fanatisme ou leurs instincts de pillage. Le pouvoir tout spirituel que le Sultan exerce virtuellement dans ces régions pourrait, au contraire, s'il était mis à profit par des émissaires bien inspirés, contribuer à prévenir de nouvelles causes de conflits que le Gouvernement de la République désire sincèrement éviter.



---

No. 57.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 3.

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 27, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the United States' Representative, in reply to the latter's communication, that there was no intention on the part of the Moorish Government to treat him or his Government with any discourtesy; and that, on the contrary, it was the earnest desire of the Moorish Government to show every possible respect and good-will to him personally and to the country which he represented. The Moorish Government, the Foreign Minister stated, would be, therefore, happy to receive Mr. Gummeré as soon as it was convenient for him to leave Tangier; and they hoped to be able to send the animals and tents, necessary for his conveyance, from the Court to Mazagan by the middle of next month.

Mr. Gummeré has now received instructions from his Government to proceed as soon as he conveniently can do so to Mazagan; and when he sees the Sultan, he is to insist on the full and immediate payment of all American claims, and a disavowal of all irregularities committed by Moorish officials towards American citizens and interests, as well as of all incivilities on the part of the Moorish Government and officials towards himself.

Besides his letter of credence, Mr. Gummeré is also bearer of a letter from the President of the United States to the Sultan, requesting His Majesty to settle without delay the claims which will be presented.

I am informed that the Moorish Government dispute the justice of some of the larger claims, but I understand from Mr. Gummeré that he will admit no discussion of them. The total amount of the claims is, I believe, about 13,000*l.*

The United States' cruiser "New York" arrived here yesterday, and it is Mr. Gummeré's intention to leave here in her in four or five days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 58.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 33. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 27, 1901.

I AM privately informed from the Court that the Moorish Government deny that the influential Figuig Chief, Bou Amama, has tendered his submission to the French authorities, but in view of the circumstantial details which were published in the French press, and on which I commented in my despatch No. 153 of the 28th December, it would seem doubtful if the contention of the Moorish Government is correct. I hope to be able before long to receive some trustworthy information on the subject.

I also gather from information which reaches me from Morocco city, that both among the official classes and the public a strong feeling is being manifested against the inaction

of the Sultan and his Government in face of what are considered to be French encroachments on Moorish territory.

In fact, my informant, who is a man of long experience in this country, is of opinion that unless the Sultan is able to come speedily to some arrangement with the French authorities, which will prevent further advances on the part of the French forces, there may be a general rising throughout Morocco against the dynasty and Government.

The public, I am told, complain that the only step which the Sultan has apparently taken in the present crisis is to send repeated orders to the tribes to abstain from all hostile action, and having thus discouraged all resistance, His Majesty has been unwilling or unable to arrest, by peaceable negotiations and diplomacy, the continued absorption of outlying portions of his dominions.

In these circumstances the Sultan finds himself in a dilemma. He is, I think, aware that were he to give free rein to the tribes, or to afford them any material support, a state of war would exist; and though the situation might be at the outset embarrassing to the French, the ultimate results can easily be foreseen, unless he were to find support from some foreign Power.

On the other hand it may be true that the present situation cannot long continue, and that, apart from the question of a general rising, as to which, personally, I have no immediate fears, one of two things may happen. Either the tribes will pay no attention to the Sultan's orders and act on their own initiative, or else those in the neighbourhood of the French forces will make the best terms they can with the French authorities. At the same time, as I have mentioned in a former despatch, it is exceedingly unfortunate that at this critical moment the Moorish Government should take no measures for restraining the increasing oppression and rapacity of the provincial Governors, which are alienating the loyalty of the people.

In regard to the question of obtaining by peaceable negotiation a termination of the present difficulties, the Sultan is now doubtful, I hear, whether any overtures to the French Government would be favourably received, and he has not yet carried out his intention of writing direct to the French President. This hesitation on the part of His Majesty is, I submit, to be regretted, as a direct communication to the President might possibly lead to an interchange of views and tend to modify the existing situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 59.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 3.)*

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 27, 1901.*

AS the Sultan will probably arrive at Rabat on his way to Fez towards the latter end of May, I would propose, with your Lordship's sanction, to present myself at His Majesty's Court on that occasion. Five years have elapsed since I was at the Court, and there are several matters on which I am anxious to speak to His Majesty and his Ministers, and which I have found it difficult to arrange by correspondence. Moreover, the opportunity might, perhaps, be taken to present my new credentials.

I would propose to make my visit as brief as possible, and I think I could transact all the business I have in hand within ten days. I would take a limited staff, and I should be obliged if I could be conveyed to Rabat and back in a man-of-war.

Subject to the approval of your Lordship, and with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I would suggest that in regard to that matter I might be permitted to place myself in communication with the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station. The movements of the Sultan are liable to frequent alterations; and I venture to think it might avoid confusion if I could arrange as to my conveyance directly with the Admiral.

I have made a rough estimate as to the cost of the Mission which I beg leave to inclose, and in any case I am prepared to guarantee that the expenditure would not exceed the sum named therein.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



Inclosure in No. 59.

ESTIMATE of Expenditure.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gratuities .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| Repairs to camp furniture .. .. .. .. .. | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Stores and wines .. .. .. .. .. .. | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Wages, freight, and passages for servants and goods to and from Rabat .. | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Sundries .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Total .. .. .. .. .. .. | 180 | 0 | 0 |

---

## No. 60.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 5.)*

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 5, 1901.*

NEWS has reached me that a note has been addressed to the Moorish Government by the French Minister, in which he warns them that the French Government will be obliged to send an expedition to Tafilelt, unless they are able to keep order among the tribes there. The Moorish Government assert that the Tafilelt tribes are perfectly quiet, and, consequently. are much disturbed by this communication.

---

## No. 61.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 6.)*

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 31, 1901.*

FROM information which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, it would appear that the reported disturbances in the Sus Province have been greatly exaggerated, and that tranquillity is now practically restored. One tribe called the "Ida-O-Ben Akkil" had assembled near Tiguit for the purpose of raiding that place, but abstained from carrying out their intention; and it is said that they have now made their submission to the Moorish authorities. The trade routes have not been interrupted, and the important Shereef Sidi Houssein Hashem has remained perfectly loyal to the Sultan.

Mr. Consul Maclean states that he has been informed that the reports as to the disturbances were disseminated with the object of retaining the Court at Morocco city, as its presence in that town is of advantage to business in the southern ports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 62.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 6.)*

(No. 36. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March 31, 1901.*

LETTERS which I have just received from the Court report that the Sultan and his Government have determined to introduce, without delay, sweeping reforms in the administration of the country, and also to take measures for affording greater facilities to commerce and improving the means of communication in the interior. A project of reforms has been drawn up by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other members of the Government, which is to be submitted to the Sultan. I understand that it provides for complete reorganization of the provincial Administration, and abolishes the system of the sale of posts to the officials, replacing it by the allocation of fixed salaries to these functionaries. The collection of taxes is to be carefully supervised and receipts given, so that no individual should pay more than is his due. The foreign Governments are also to be asked to consent to the establishment of mixed Tribunals.

I have only received a short summary of the project, and I should like to study it in detail before expressing any opinion as to whether it would be a workable scheme.

The Moorish Government desire to obtain a loan in England, with the customs revenues as guarantee, for the purpose of improving the ports, of constructing roads, building bridges, and establishing telegraphic communication throughout the country, and so far as I can gather, they are willing to remove any of the restrictions at present hampering commerce.

These proposals, if carried out, should have most excellent results; and if the Sultan and his Government are in earnest in their desires to enter upon a new path, there would be hope of a future for this country.

I trust to receive later more information on these matters, and will report further to to your Lordship. The Sultan should, however, not undertake too much at once, or make too sudden and drastic a change in the traditions and customs of this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 63.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 6.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 31, 1901.

I HAVE been informed that the Moorish Government have received letters from Tafilelt, dated the 17th instant, and that no mention is made therein of any tribes from that oasis having been engaged in the attack on the French post at Timmimoun; nor, indeed, do the letters make any reference to any hostilities between the frontier tribes and the French.

The Moorish Government consider, therefore, that the reports which have been circulated by the French authorities as to the participation of Tafilelt tribes in the attack on French posts are made with the object of implicating the Sultan and his authorities, and of providing a pretext for some action, when the moment may be convenient, against Tafilelt.

The Moorish Government are consequently much alarmed, as they fear that any attack on Tafilelt would cause, as they express it, "a disastrous rebellion throughout the country." They have, indirectly, asked me to give them my opinion and advice on the subject, and I am conveying to them, through the same indirect channel, that I understand that the French authorities have always maintained that they have no designs on Tafilelt; and that I do not think there is at present any ground for believing that they wish to depart from such assurances. I have also intimated that, from what I have gathered from French journals, it would appear that there have been certain small conflicts between some tribes and the French posts, and that the French military authorities have been compelled to chastise these tribes. The most recent information I have read in the French papers was to the effect that the French military authorities appeared satisfied that order had been sufficiently established.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 64.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 6.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 31, 1901.

THE French Agent, Dr. Linares, at the Shereefian Court has suggested to the Moorish Government that the time is an opportune one for sending a Mission to St. Petersburgh; and the Sultan has asked me for my opinion.

I have conveyed to His Majesty that I understood it was intimated to the Russian Minister, when the latter was at the Court, that a Mission would at some time proceed to Russia to express the thanks of the Sultan for the establishment of a Russian



Legation in Morocco; and that if the question had been recalled to his memory, it seemed to me but an act of courtesy to give effect to the previous intention.

It was a matter on which the Russian Minister should be consulted, and was one which it was quite outside my province to deal with

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 65.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 6.)

(No. 5. Treaty.)
My Lord, *Madrid, March* 31, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2, Library, of the 25th January, in which I transmitted the Red Book containing the Treaty concluded between France and Spain for the delimitation of their respective possessions in West Africa, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that the Treaty as there published was ratified on the 22nd instant, and its text appears in the Gazette of yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

---

No. 66.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 6, 1901.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 6 of yesterday's date: The Sultan should use every endeavour to keep the Tafilelt tribes quiet. You should try to ascertain for certain whether these tribes are really giving trouble.

---

No. 67.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 7.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 7, 1901.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 5 of the 6th instant.

I have great difficulty in obtaining impartial and trustworthy information as to the condition of the tribes at Tafilelt, but all the information which has reached me from various sources agrees that they have hitherto taken no hostile action, although somewhat agitated. The fact that they were Tafilelt tribes who recently attacked the French posts has not been confirmed, and expert opinion, on the contrary, is opposed to this supposition. In three or four weeks more trustworthy information will, I hope, reach me.

I will continue to impress on the Sultan the necessity of restraining the tribes, and I am confident that he is doing his utmost in this direction. The Sultan fears that an expedition to Tafilelt may be imminent, but the want of sufficient transport and troops at hand, as also the season of the year, would seem to be against it, and I hardly think that it can be immediately contemplated.

---

No. 68.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 8, 1901.

AN urgent appeal has reached me from the Sultan, dated the 1st instant, in which he urges me to inform him whether he can look to His Majesty's Government for any assistance in the grave difficulties in which he finds himself. In giving his

people orders to restrain from fighting the French he has, he says, taken a serious responsibility, and there will be a general rising against himself and his Government unless something is done to protect his people from the French. He cannot, he continues, sit with folded hands and allow his people's lands to be taken from them, and so, if His Majesty's Government are unable to assist him, he will collect his people and endeavour to protect himself. If, he adds, he can have a frontier he is willing to let Tuat and Igli go. The Sultan does not apprehend danger if the French do not go to Tafilelt, but he evidently considers the crisis will have arrived should they once go there. Kaid Maclean also tells me that he has noticed a growth of bad feeling against Christians generally, and he is of opinion that the situation is most serious. He says that he fears there will be a general revolt unless something is done, as there are frequent complaints against the Sultan's inactivity. I have been requested to reply to the Sultan by return courier.

In my answer I pointed out that his Minister of War, when in London, will have an opportunity of explaining the state of affairs, though, of course, holding out no expectation whatever of any assistance being given. I have told Kaid Maclean that any intention the Sultan may have of taking the initiative in collecting levies must be discouraged by him; and I have told the Sultan that he must keep his people under control, and content them by showing them that he intends that they shall be justly governed.

I still doubt whether there are any immediate designs against Tafilelt on the part of the French; and, personally, I do not think the situation is imminently dangerous, although it is undoubtedly serious. I have conveyed this opinion also to Kaid Maclean.

I now propose to speak, confidentially, on the situation to my German colleague.

---

No. 69.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 9, 1901.

I APPROVE the advice given by you to the Sultan as reported in your telegram No. 8 of yesterday's date. You may speak to the German Minister, confidentially, on the situation as you propose.

---

No. 70.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.*

(No. 10. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 9, 1901.

URGENT appeals have been addressed to His Majesty's Government by the Sultan of Morocco on account of the French Government having threatened him with an expedition to Tafilelt if he does not restrain the tribes. The Sultan's position is difficult, as there is much discontent and unrest among his subjects both because of the French proceedings and the general misgovernment of the country, but he appears to be doing his best.

You will receive copies of telegrams on this subject in the bag which goes to you to-morrow.

You might, in the meanwhile, cautiously inquire what accounts have been received by the Spanish Government, and whether the Moorish Government have addressed any communications to them on the subject.

Point out to them that the maintenance of the *status quo*, so far as that is possible, is a matter in which the interests of this country and of Spain are both concerned.

---



No 71.

*Foreign Office to Treasury.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that the Sultan of Morocco is expected to arrive at Rabat on his way to Fez towards the end of May, and that advantage will be taken of His Majesty's presence at that port by His Majesty's Minister at Tangier to present his new credentials.

I am to inclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, a rough estimate of the cost of the Mission, which has been received from Sir Arthur Nicolson.*

His Majesty's Minister will be conveyed from Tangier to Rabat and back, in accordance with precedent, on board one of His Majesty's ships of war.

The cost of his subsistence while on board, together with that of those members of his staff who will accompany him, will have to be defrayed in addition to the expenses estimated for by Sir Arthur Nicolson.

His Majesty's Minister has not visited the Moorish Court for five years, and as he is anxious to discuss with the Sultan and his Ministers questions of importance, it is desirable that the mission to present his credentials should not be delayed, more especially as the presence of His Majesty at a place which is so accessible as Rabat will greatly reduce the cost of the Mission.

Lord Lansdowne therefore hopes that the Lords Commissioners will, as on previous occasions, give their sanction to the necessary expenditure on account of Sir A. Nicolson's Mission, together with the cost of subsistence while on board His Majesty's ship of war of His Majesty's Minister and of those members of his staff who may be conveyed in that manner from Tangier to Rabat and back.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

No. 72.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that the Sultan of Morocco is expected to arrive at Rabat on his way to Fez towards the latter end of May, and that his presence there will be taken advantage of by His Majesty's Minister at Tangier to present his new credentials.

A despatch has been received from Sir Arthur Nicolson stating that he would be obliged if he could be conveyed to Rabat and back in one of His Majesty's ships of war, and suggesting that he should be permitted, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to place himself in communication with the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station on the subject.

The movements of the Sultan are liable to frequent alterations, and Sir Arthur therefore thinks that confusion might be avoided if he were allowed to arrange directly with the Commander-in-chief with regard to his conveyance.

I am to inquire whether it will be convenient that one of His Majesty's ships should convey Sir A. Nicolson from Tangier to Rabat and back on this occasion, and if so, whether the Lords Commissioners concur in the adoption of the suggestion made by His Majesty's Minister.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

* No. 59.

No. 73.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 39. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 1, 1901.

I HAVE been informed, from very fairly trustworthy sources, that the tribes on the Ain-Sefra-Igli line have not only abandoned any intention of undertaking hostile action against the French, but are working cheerfully with them and gaining good wages on the construction of the railway which the French are pushing forward with activity.

Bu Amama, so my informants state, is co-operating cordially with the French authorities, and has prevented any one from travelling in the districts bordering on the frontier without a permit from himself. I am also informed that the Beni Gil and Oulad Jerir tribes refer their disputes to Bu Amama, and, provided with his permits, trade freely at the markets lying to the east of their own habitations.

This information would appear to confirm the statements published in the French papers that Bu Amama has made his peace with the Algerian authorities, and does not bear out the assertion of the Moorish Government, as reported in my despatch No. 33 of the 27th ultimo, that he had held aloof from relations with those authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 74.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 2, 1901.

THE visit of the United States' Representative to the Shereefian Court appears to be destined to meet with continual difficulties, as a further delay has now occurred. M. Gummeré had been given to understand by the State Department that the cruizer "New York" was placed at his disposal and would convey him down the coast. The "New York" arrived here on the 26th ultimo, and Rear-Admiral Rodgers, who was in command, informed M. Gummeré that his instructions were to convey him at once to Mazagan.

M. Gummeré explained that he feared he must ask the Admiral to wait for a few days, as the Moorish Government had informed him that his transport animals and escort would only reach Mazagan on the 15th April, and he was unwilling to be landed at that port too long before that date. The Admiral telegraphed to the Navy Department for further instructions, and asked permission to remain at Tangier for four or five days; but a reply came to the effect that he was to sail at once for Algiers for coaling and then proceed to Manila. The "New York" therefore left on the 28th ultimo.

M. Gummeré has telegraphed to the State Department for instructions, and he has received a reply that he is to take no further action till he received instructions which would be sent by post. These instructions, M. Gummeré tells me, cannot arrive before the 12th instant, and he has no intimation as to whether a fresh man-of-war is coming or not. In these circumstances he feels himself, after all that has passed, in a somewhat invidious position; and he is unable to reply to the inquiries of the Moorish authorities as to when he intends to start. The misunderstanding is unfortunate, and it certainly has placed M. Gummeré in an awkward situation towards the Moorish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 75.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 4, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith an interesting Memorandum, drawn up by Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, on the progress made on the Algeria-Sahara Railway, and also on the situation of affairs on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 75.

*Memorandum respecting Affairs on Morocco–Algerian Frontier.*

(Confidential.)

I INCLOSE herewith a map tracing, done over our War Office Map No. 887, which shows the present state of the Algeria–Sahara Railway. It will be observed that the railway is now working as far south as Wad Zubia, where a bridge is just now being built, and that building is being carried on over a tract some 15 miles thence to the south-west.

I learn that, so far, only military traffic is carried on over the railway, but as soon as roughly-fortified quarters have been built for the French troops stationed at various points along the line it will be opened for general traffic.

I also inclose a tracing over War Office Map No. 746, indicating the most westerly points to which detachments of French troops have been advanced. My informants state positively that they saw the French camps at Bechar and Ouakda, but, owing to all approach near the lines being forbidden, they were unable to estimate them very exactly, but they reckoned them each at about 1,000 horse, foot, and artillery mixed.

To-day, as I write, a report has come here that the French have occupied Kenadsa.

In view of the facts that the Moorish Government has a Kaïd stationed at Udaghir, 60 miles, roughly, east-north-east of Bechar, and that the district of Uled Jerir (south of Bechar and Kenadsa) has always been considered as part of Morocco, I beg to draw special attention to this French movement.

My informants also state that French detachments have been stationed at Ed-duissa, a place several miles west-north-west of Ish—a "kessour" admitedly Moorish, and thus designated in the Franco-Moorish Treaty of 1845: (Article V, section 2: "Les Kessours qui appartiennet au Maroc sont ceux de Ische et de Figuigue").

I understand that by an arrangement the French have recently effected through the celebrated Sheikh Bu Amama, whose head-quarters are at Hunnam al Fukani, and who has much influence with the tribes all over that region, the Dulmenia tribe have agreed to offer no objections or impediments to French movements there; and meanwhile, when possessed of permits issued by Bu Amama, they are allowed to trade freely with their neighbours on the east.

It seems inevitable, if the French continue to follow the line of their present movement, that the whole tract of country between the Wad Zusfana and Wad Guir will fall into their unlimited control, and even thereafter they will still have an undelimitated frontier west of them whereon the same movement being followed just now may be repeated again and again.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

*Fez, March* 28, 1901.

---

No. 76.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 42. Confidential.)

*Tangier, April* 5, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE just received information from the Court to the effect that the French Minister here has addressed a note to the Moorish Government warning them that if the Sultan is unable to restrain the tribes in Tafilelt from attacking the French posts, the French Government will be obliged to send a punitive expedition to Tafilelt.

This communication, I am told, has caused much perturbation at the Court, especially as the Moorish Government assert that the Tafilelt tribes have remained quiet, and were not concerned in the recent attack on Timmimoun.

The Sultan is of opinion that the French authorities are seeking for a pretext to enter Tafilelt, and he fears that an occupation of that oasis may take place at any moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 77.

*Consul-General Newton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 3. Africa.)

*Algiers, April* 9, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a small map of the movements of the French troops under Generals Servière and Risbourg, together with a cutting from the "Dépêche Algérienne," of the 9th instant, showing the great importance of the occupation of Igli.

General Servière's operations took place in the Tuat and Gourara districts in February and March last. His line of march between the 20th and 28th February is not reported in detail, but, leaving Tamentit on the 20th, he fought an engagement at Charouin on the 28th.

The troops under General Risbourg were simultaneously advancing southward viâ Igli along the Messaoura, and reached Beni-Abbes a little north of the 30th parallel; a detachment under Colonel Biller going further southward to Kergaz. Their operations, as far as is reported, were confined to the protection of General Servière's flank, and to receiving various peaceful deputations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. HAY NEWTON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

*Sketch Map.*

[Not printed.]

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

*Extract from the "Dépêche Algérienne" of April* 9, 1901.

UN coup d'œil sur une carte du Nord-ouest Africain fera mieux comprendre, en effet, que les meilleures explications, le côté politique des opérations déjà engagées dans les oasis échelonnées sur l'oued Saoura.

Ainsi l'occupation d'Igli est, en ce sens, tout à fait caractéristique; elle est d'une importance de premier ordre, car c'est là que convergent les trois vallées principales de ces régions Sahariennes: celle de l'oued Zousfana venant du sud de l'Oranie; celle de l'oued Guir par où arrivent du Maroc ces bandes de Berabers, armés de fusils à tir



rapide, qui déciment les états-majors de nos petits postes d'occupation du Gourara et du Touat; et enfin la vallée de l'oued Saoura tout le long de laquelle s'égrène l'immense chapelet d'oasis du Gourara, du Touat, et du Tidikelt, et dont les points principaux occupés sont, du nord au sud, Igli, Timimoum, Adrar et In-Salah.

Il est de toute évidence que cette occupation constitue un commencement d'enveloppement du Maroc par le sud-est, et que si la France, pour assurer la sécurité de ces nouvelles possessions Sahariennes, est forcément amenée à faire occuper un point stratégique de la vallée de l'oued Guir, puis un autre dans l'oued Draâ, l'investissement par le Souf et la lisière Saharienne sera complet: la route du Soudan au Maroc par Tindouf, Tasdeni, et Araouan sera coupée, celle par Igli et In-Sallah l'est déjà par notre occupation des oasis, et enfin l'accès au Maroc par le nord du Sénégal sera entièrement à notre discrétion par suite du récent arrangement Franco-Espagnol qui laisse entre nos mains le seul passage par les territoires de l'Adrar occidental; de ce côté la possession de la Sebkha d'Idjil, la plus importante mine de sel de l'Afrique Occidentale fournissant la riche et précieuse denrée aussi bien au sud Marocian qu'aux régions du Haut-Niger et du Soudan, mettra à notre disposition l'instrument de domination le plus sûr qui se puisse concevoir en ces régions.

Nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de signaler incidemment qu'un autre gisement de sel, le plus riche de tous, est dans le Sahara central. Innombrables sont les caravanes qui viennent le chercher dans l'oasis de Bilma pour le distribuer aux populations de l'Afrique intertropicale où il pénètre jusque dans les vallées du Haut-Congo; il est en barres, comme de l'or, presque aussi précieux; il sert suivant les régions de numéraire dans les transactions et est souvent échangé pour des esclaves; denrée contre denrée! Eh bien, cette oasis de Bilma est coupée par la ligne conventionnelle de nos possessions Sahariennes telle qu'elle résulte de la dernière Convention Franco-Anglaise du 21 Mars, 1899; l'importance de sa possession est telle qu'il nous faudra bien nous en préoccuper un jour ou l'autre, mais la perdre de vue un seul instant serait, croyons-nous, un véritable crime diplomatique.

---

No. 78.

*Messrs. Byrne and Co. to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 13.)

*95, High Holborn, London, April* 12, 1901.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my previous correspondence respecting my trading Concessions at Adrar on the North-west African coast, and to your Lordship's letter thereon of the 17th April, 1900, may I respectfully inquire whether any further advices have been received from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, and whether any action has been taken by your Lordship or by him with regard to the matter.

I greatly fear that this long-continued inaction will seriously imperil my interests there, and those of British traders generally, as I am informed that the French Government is taking measures to secure territorial rights over the locality. This, I would submit, is distinctly inimical to British interests, and should have the attention of the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES BYRNE.

---

No. 79.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Madrid, April* 13, 1901.

I WAS able during the Foreign Minister's weekly reception yesterday to touch upon the question of the French aggressions in Morocco, referred to in your Lordship's despatch of the 9th instant.

His Excellency spoke very freely, and said he was delighted that I should have afforded him an opportunity of discussing the subject. Begging me to excuse any indiscretion on his part, he went on to say that for some time past the steady advance of the French towards and across the old frontier had been watched by him with apprehension and surprise, and that the confidence shown by the French had led him

to suppose that England had come to some agreement with them by which they were given a free hand in this direction. He rather insisted on this point, and when I told him that, as far as I knew, no such agreement existed, he seemed relieved. He remarked of his own accord that it was to the interest of Spain, which, as the weakest party, would naturally come off worst, to maintain the *status quo*, and avoid any serious troubles.

His Excellency did not inform me whether the Spanish Government had received any communication on the subject from the Moorish Court, but he said that, as far as he could judge from the accounts received by him, there was no reason to believe that the tribes were at present in a state of exceptional unrest and discontent; in fact, he was of opinion that things at the present moment were going on better. He added, however, that one might expect serious trouble to break out in this direction at any moment, and did not conceal his opinion that the French made the most of the provocation given by the tribes, using it as a pretext to excuse their action.

The Duke of Almodovar, who was friendly and open in his manner, undoubtedly went out of his way to make statements which, if they can be regarded as a genuine expression of the views of the Spanish Government, are very satisfactory; but I, of course, know very little as yet of his Excellency, whom, I believe, Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff did not altogether trust; and it is quite possible that he was trying to draw me into some declaration of policy hostile to the French. I was careful to avoid any remarks which could be so interpreted.

---

No. 80.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 139.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 12, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting on military movements in French Colonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 80.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 22.)
(Extract.) *Paris, April* 11, 1901.

ALGERIA. The operations in Southern Algeria appear to have been concluded satisfactorily, though accounts as to the future pacific intentions of the Beraber tribes differ considerably. It is reported that General Servière occupied Talmina on the 10th ultimo after slight opposition. He reported that the Berabers were retiring on Tafilelt, marking their route with many tombs of slain. They are said to have lost 250 killed in recent engagements. Thus General Servière's mission in Touat and the Gourara is said to be finished.

General Risbourg was reported about the 21st ultimo at Taighit, having accomplished his mission in the Oued-Saoura. While at El Ouassa the Marabout of the Kerzas called on him.

Colonel Billet, with a small column, has occupied Kerzas.

On the other hand, some of the French papers state that the Berabers are not at all beaten. They went westward after Timmimoum, and avoided Charouin. They are said to fight well, are provided with magazine rifles and utilize ground well. The French losses at Charouin are quoted as proof of this, while at Timmimoum the French fought under cover.

Some military organs urge that the war is not over, and that the Berabers, who encourage the warlike ardour of the tribes of Tafilelt and the Saoura, must be dealt with before permanent peace is assured.

General Servière is reported to have quitted Talmin on the 13th ultimo, having received the submission of the Ksars of Talmin, Saghura, and Naama. All hostages



will now be taken to Laghouat, and it is stated that operations being finished the dislocation of the troops was to commence on the 15th ultimo.

Colonel Menestrel with the troops relieved was to return direct by Timmimoum. The occupation of Adrar is practically over, but certain information which the General requires will necessitate his return in the direction of Touat.

By arrangement concluded between France and Morocco, submarine cables will shortly connect Oran with Marseilles viâ Tangiers.

---

No. 81.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 144.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 14, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché at His Majesty's Embassy, forwarding an article on the Franco-Spanish frontier in West frica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 81.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Paris, April* 13, 1901.

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward your Excellency, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, a translation I have made of an article which appeared in yesterday's "France Militaire."

Touching, as it does, on the frontier question of France and Spain in West Africa, and consequently on the future boundaries of France and Morocco, it struck me as of especial interest at this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

*Extract from the "France Militaire" of April* 12, 1901.

(Translation.)

A RECENT Decree ratifies the Convention of the 27th June, 1900, which has been approved by the Chambers, concerning the delimitation of French and Spanish possessions in West Africa. This is the last diplomatic act of the series of African Treaties concluded with England, Germany, Spain, and Portugal, which constitutes the civil state of our African Colonies.

In creating one homogeneous block of our African possessions from the Congo to the Mediterranean, and from the Atlantic to the basin of the Bar-el-Ghazal, these territorial arrangements have assured out effective domination from a political and military point of view, and allow us to assure the economical development of these vast territories.

The last Agreement lays down that the Franco-Spanish frontier starts at Cape Blanc, guaranteeing to France the Bay of Levrier; then, after having followed the 21° 20′ latitude north, it stops at 15° 20′ longitude west of Paris, to rejoin 14° 20′ longitude by a bend traced in such a manner as to leave the territory of Adrar (the sebka of Idjil with its dependencies included) to France.

From this last point the frontier reaches Morocco, across an undetermined zone, to join on to our Algerian possessions, *i.e.*, Touat.

On this side there remains much still to do, the Franco-Morocco Convention of 1845 never having been drawn up in a precise manner.

But we are to-day in a position to realize absolutely the junction of Algeria and the Soudan across Mauritania without being hampered by diplomatic action from outside.

The country inhabited by the Moors extends from the ocean to the gates of Timbuctoo. The principal divisions of Mauritania, going west to east, are Moorish Adrar, Tagant, Hodjh, Djouf, Azouad, and the region of Timbuctoo.

This country, called Mauritania, was known by the generic name of Sahel, and was inhabited by tribes of Berber origin. These are essentially nomads, and though having a common origin are perpetually at war one with the other.

The principal groups are the Trarza, Brackna, Douaichs, Kounta, Sidi-Mahmoud, Ouled-Nacers, Tadjakantes, Allouehs, and Berabiehs.

Many of these tribes have contracted alliances with the Touaregs, which explains much of the errors of appreciation which we committed at the debut of our occupation.

At the commencement of our establishing ourselves in Senegal we entered into relations with the Moors, and our agents frequently had occasion to complain of them. We put up with their pretensions until we found ourselves strong enough to put an end to them.

Faidherbe conducted successful expeditions against the Trarza and Brackna, which resulted in the Treaties of November 1855 and May and June 1858. These Treaties were completed by those of 1877 and 1879, signed by Colonel Briere de l'Isle.

Still we could never really penetrate into the country, the journeys of Vincent and Bou-el-Nogliad not being imitated; because neither Faber, Donnet, Blanchet, and Jouinot-Gambetta could reach the points visited by their forerunners.

Colonel Archinard's fine campaign consulted in our winning the rich Province of Kaarta, and its ulterior result was our entry into Timbuctoo.

Our situation in Mauritania is thus much consolidated, and many are in favour of immediate and complete occupation of the country. M. Cappolani has constituted himself the champion of this idea. It appears to us a little premature, having regard to events of which Touat is the theatre. It is useless to complicate further the Saharian questions and their derivatives.

As a set off, however, we should like to see the last post created by General Servière connected with Timbuctoo by a line of blockhouses, sufficiently scattered as not to constitute too great an expense for their support. This would enable us to assure telegraphic communication between Paris and West Africa, viâ Algiers, Touat, Timbuctoo, and from there Saint-Louis of the Senegal, Dahomey, and even the French Congo.

This would be more economical than the network of submarine African cables, which it is a question of creating, with the advantage of having our telegraph lines on French territory. This enterprise would have very important results from a point of view of Colonial Defence.

---

No. 82.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.*

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office April* 15, 1901.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 24 of the 13th instant, you may state without any qualifying expression that no understanding exists between this country and France which gives the latter a free hand as regards the frontier of Morocco.

---

No. 83.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received April* 16.)

Sir, *Admiralty, April* 15, 1901.

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and to inform you that directions have been given to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station to cause the necessary arrangements to be made for conveying His Majesty's Minister at Tangier from that



port to Rabat and back in one of His Majesty's ships about the end of May, should the exigencies of the service permit.

My Lords concur that under the circumstances it would be desirable for Sir Arthur Nicolson to place himself in direct communication with the Commander-in-chief as to the date of his departure and return, and Sir John Fisher has been informed accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

---

No. 84.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April* 16.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 16, 1901.

MY despatch No. 34 of the 27th ultimo.

The Sultan has expressed a strong wish that I should visit him at Morocco city as he does not intend to come north yet. At the time when Sultan sent me this communication he did not know for certain that Mission would be received in England, and I have explained to him that unnecessary comment would be raised by my departure for so far south being immediately followed by the visit of a Mission to England.

I also pointed out that the arrival of the Mission would be postponed to an inconveniently late date as it would hardly be practicable for me to arrive at Court till towards the end of May. This will be understood by the Sultan, and in a few days information should reach me as to when Mission will be ready to start. They will reach England, I think, about the middle of June.

I know, more or less, what the Mission will have in view, and before its departure I shall be able to learn more. Your Lordship will approve, I trust, my having deprecated visiting Morocco city. To have gone to Rabat would have been quite different.

I could be in England before arrival of Mission, and remain there during its visit, should your Lordship wish it.

---

No. 85.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1901.

THE answer given by you to the Sultan's message, as reported in your telegram No. 10 of yesterday, is approved.

I shall be glad of your presence in London during the stay of the Moorish Mission in this country.

---

No. 86.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 36.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1901.

I REFERRED to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your despatch No. 34 of the 27th ultimo, requesting that, on the occasion of your visit to Rabat to present your new credentials, you may be conveyed to that port and back to Tangier in one of His Majesty's ships.

I transmit a copy of the reply from the Admiralty,* stating that directions have been given for your conveyance from Tangier to Rabat and back about the end of May should the exigencies of the service permit, and concurring in the suggestion contained in your despatch that you should enter into direct communication with the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station with regard to the dates of your departure and return.

* No. 83.

In view, however, of the information contained in your telegram No. 10 of the 16th instant, it seems unnecessary to take any further steps, for the present at any rate, in the matter of your mission to the Moorish coast.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 87.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1901.

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* reporting that the Sultan of Morocco does not intend to come north yet from Morocco city.

In consequence of this change in His Majesty's plans the mission of Sir Arthur Nicolson to the Moorish Court for the purpose of presenting his new credentials, which was to have taken place while the Sultan was at Rabat, has been abandoned, at any rate for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN

---

No. 88.

*Foreign Office to Treasury.*

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1901.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 12th instant, I am uirected by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, a paraphrase of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier,* reporting that the Sultan of Morocco does not intend to come north yet from Morocco city.

In consequence of this change in His Majesty's plans the mission of Sir Arthur Nicolson to the Moorish Court for the purpose of presenting his new credentials, which was to have taken place while the Sultan was at Rabat, has been abandoned, at any rate for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

No. 89.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April* 19.)

(No. 43. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 9, 1901.

I RECEIVED yesterday an express courier from the Court, conveying a message from the Sultan to the following effect:—

His Majesty was desirous of ascertaining whether he could expect any assistance from His Majesty's Government in view of the movements of the French forces on the Moorish frontier, and especially with respect to what the Sultan considers their impending occupation of Tafilelt. His Majesty explained that, in accordance with the advice which had been given to him, he had sent orders to the Tafilelt people to remain quiet and not undertake any hostile action against the French, but that now refugees had come in large numbers to Tafilelt from the districts occupied by the French forces, and had appealed to their compatriots to assist them. These appeals, the Sultan intimated, had made an impression on the Tafilelt people, and he felt he had incurred a grave responsibility in preventing his subjects from giving aid to those who had been deprived of their lands, goods, and flocks. If he continued to refuse any

* No. 84.



assistance, and to deter his subjects from doing so, and showed a disinclination to protect them against French encroachments, he feared that his people would rise against him and his Government.

His Majesty stated that he was of opinion that no reliance could be placed on the assurances of the French authorities, instancing the case of Figuig, where, he said, the French were in practical occupation. The Sultan added that if the French Government were sincere in their declarations that they had no desire to annex Moorish territory, they could have no objection to delimitate a frontier-line. He himself would then be ready to sacrifice Tuat and Igli, and would go in person to the frontier and maintain order, and punish any tribe which molested the French.

At the same time, His Majesty stated it was impossible for him to continue in the present condition of uncertainty, and to remain passive in face of the encroachments and arbitrary proceedings of French authorities on Moorish territory. If His Majesty's Government could in no wise assist him he would like to be frankly told so, and then he could collect his men and do his best, with God's help, to protect himself and his people. His Majesty added that if the French did not proceed to Tafilelt he did not apprehend danger, but if they did once enter the oasis—to use his own words—"God help him and his people."

The Sultan concluded by requesting me to send a reply by return messenger.

I have conveyed to the Sultan that as his Minister of War is shortly, I presume, proceeding to London, this Envoy will have an opportunity of explaining the state of affairs to your Lordship, and that he should continue to keep his tribes under control, and not permit them to take any hostile action. I have impressed on His Majesty that to my mind he should lose no time in introducing some elementary reforms into his Administration, and show his people that he intended that they should be justly governed. This, in my opinion, would go far to allaying the discontent against his Government, which, I hinted to His Majesty, was not solely caused by the agitation consequent on French movements. As regards His Majesty's anxiety as to an impending French occupation of Tafilelt, I mentioned, as a personal opinion of my own, that, apart from any assurances, to which His Majesty apparently attached little weight, I doubted if, with the approach of summer and the necessity of collecting a considerable number of troops and transport animals, an immediate advance on Tafilelt could be in contemplation. I further added that in any case it seemed to me it would be a most imprudent act on the part of His Majesty to take the initiative by assembling his levies and embarking on a military expedition.

I trust your Lordship will not disapprove of the general tenour of this reply. It appeared to me necessary to send an answer without delay, as the Sultan evidently had communicated with me in an agitated, I might almost say panic-stricken, condition of mind, and there was the risk of his hastily adopting some course of action which would land him in very serious complications.

I received also private information from the Court that the situation was very serious, and that there were signs of the growth of a feeling against Christians generally. My informant is a man of long experience in the country, and to whose opinion I attach great weight; still, I am bound to state that this is the first intimation I have received of any such movement, and the information which I receive from the coast towns and elsewhere is to the effect that the disaffection—undoubtedly spreading—among the people is directed chiefly against the system of government, which is becoming well nigh intolerable, and that the want of a strong hand at the helm to hold in check the ever-growing abuses of provincial officials is bitterly felt and resented.

I may mention that both from Casablanca and Fez I have received information that reports which have reached the British Consular officers at those places from Tafilelt are to the effect that the forces which the Sultan dispatched to that oasis to restrain the tribes are conducting themselves in such a manner as to give rise to many murmurs, and, among some sections, to an openly-expressed wish to place themselves under French protection. Neither Mr. Maclean nor Mr. Macleod will vouch for the accuracy of the reports, though it is probable there is some truth in them, as they come from perfectly independent sources, and are in curious harmony.

Be that as it may, I would venture once more to express my opinion that a French occupation of or a French expedition to Tafilelt, whether accepted or not by a portion of the inhabitants, would produce a disastrous effect throughout the country. It would either force the Sultan to raise the country against the invaders, or, what I consider the more probable result, would lead the people to believe that the

dynasty was powerless and incapable, and each individual and each tribe would consider the end had arrived, and anarchy would ensue throughout Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 90.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 44. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 10, 1901.

I TOOK an opportunity of explaining, confidentially, to the German Minister the difficulties in which the Sultan considered himself to be placed; and I also gave him, verbally, a summary of the communications which had been of late passing with the Court; and I informed him of the desire of the Sultan to send a Mission to London and Berlin, and to introduce reforms into the administration of this country.

Baron de Mentzingen told me that he had heard nothing from the Court as to a Mission to Berlin; and I said that the Sultan was probably waiting to hear whether his Envoy would be accepted in London before communicating with him.

Baron de Mentzingen was of opinion that the situation was a serious one, and he considered that it was unfortunate the French Government did not agree to the desire of the Sultan to have a properly defined frontier-line, a question which, it seemed to him, was not so difficult to arrange as M. Révoil would wish us to believe. He thought that it was eminently desirable that the Sultan should lose no time in bringing a remedy to the grave administrative abuses, and this he could easily do with a little courage and determination.

I told Baron de Mentzingen that the Sultan should by now have received my letter, stating that the Envoy could proceed to London, and, presumably, he would shortly hear from the Court on the proposed visit to Berlin.

Baron de Mentzingen thanked me for the confidence I had placed in him, and I promised to keep him informed of any further developments of the situation.

I thought it as well to be quite unreserved with my German colleague, as I can thoroughly rely on his discretion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 91.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 45. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 11, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a further Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod on the situation of affairs on the Morocco-Algerian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

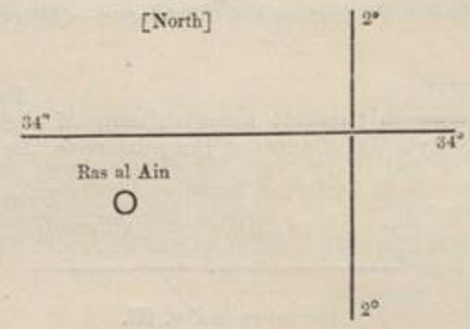
Inclosure in No. 91.

*Memorandum by Vice-Consul Macleod respecting French Movements on Morocco-Algerian Frontier.*

IN the course of further conversation with the men who recently returned from the frontier, I learn that they found a cousin (or kinsman of some degree) of Bou Amama's, named Sidi Allal, at Ain Beni Mt-har.



This place is, I take it, identical with the Ras al Ain Beni Matar indicated on our War Office map of North-East Morocco, No. 887, as shown below.




The men say that this place was formerly inhabited by the Mehaya—a Moorish tribe under the jurisdiction of the Kaid named Hadj el Melood. About two (or more) years ago, during the time that Beni Aish (now Basha of Tetuan) was Governor of Oojdah, the Mehaya quarrelled with the Moorish authorities, and, being pursued by Moorish troops, took refuge in the mountain range called Jebel Sidi Al Abeed—20 to 30 miles to the east north-east.

To further protect themselves, however (my informants say), they then sold their lands to the French through Sidi Allal, the kinsman of Bou Amama, and it is now expected that a French garrison will shortly be installed at Ras al Ain.

I have no means of proving or disproving these statements, so of course I give them with all reserve.

Judging from the man's description the place consists of several villages, each having a walled inclosure, or small "Kasbah," the whole being well watered by a running river.

Holding Ras al Ain, with the consent of the Mehaya, would enable the French to dominate the whole Mehaya district lying between Ras al Ain and Figuig, and consequently also the Moorish tract between the Mehaya district and Algeria.

It would therefore appear to be a likely place for the French to wish to occupy, and their doing so would be quite in keeping with, if not indeed absolutely a necessary part of, their present general movement westwards in the country south of Teniet Sassi, the last point to which the frontier is delimitated geographically.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

No. 92.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 12, 1901.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that he has received a report, though he does not mention the source, thet during the recent engagements in the Charouin district 400 men of the Ait Atta tribe, in defiance of the orders of the Sultan, took part in the actions against the French forces. These engagements were undertaken by General Servière in his pursuit of the tribes who attacked the French post at Timimoun.

Mr. Macleod considers that the report is probably inexact, but I should think that it is quite credible, as the powerful tribe of the Ait Atta are well known for their warlike and lawless character.

The Sultan has caused the tribes in the Tafilelt and neighbouring districts to be informed that if they disobey his orders and attack the French he will himself move down upon them, and that they will find themselves placed between two fires.

I am also informed that the note recently addressed by the French Minister to the Moorish Government, on which I reported in my despatch No. 42 of the 5th instant, was couched in polite terms, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs is sending a conciliatory reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 93.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.---(Received April 19.)*

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 12, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez relative to the condition of affairs in his district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 93.

*Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Fez, April* 7, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 11th ultimo, I have now the honour to report that the troops concerned in the fighting at Zarhon encamped here yesterday at noon.

Their Commander and a deputation of the Zarhon people have gone to the Court in connection with the matter. The Commander, I am told, alleges that it was the tribesmen who began the fighting by killing one of his officers and burning his body. As yet, however, the facts do not appear to have been clearly ascertained.

In my despatches Nos. 3 and 4, of the 27th and 28th February, I reported the disturbances on the Fez–Sefroo road. On the 15th and 18th March fights occurred at Muju and in Sefroo itself between Kaid Hossein and the partisans of Kaid Omar-al-Yusi (then absent at the Court), in the former of which the Deputy of Kaid Omar was killed.

On the 25th March about 100 infantry soldiers were sent by the Viceroy to support the authority of the Basha Abdelkerim Wuld-Bu-Mohammed-es-Shirgin, of New Fez, in whose jurisdiction are the towns of Sefroo and Bahalil, and since then there have been no further conflicts or robberies on the road.

During the last ten days or so there has been some fighting amongst the Beni-Netir, the Berbers who inhabit the tract of country south of the western half of the Fez–Mequinez road. In one fight on the 3rd instant there were eight killed. The Beni-Netir, however, say that their quarrels are only amongst themselves, and as yet, at any rate, they have refrained from interfering with traffic on the Fez–Mequinez road.

The Provinces of Haiayua (north-east of Fez) and Beni-Sadr have also been more than usually lawless of late. The Haiayua people, in particular, are rarely perfectly law-abiding, but the Beni-Sadin are, as a rule, submissive enough when kept well in hand by the Government.

From the foregoing it will be seen that of the outlying provinces of the Fez district only those on the north and north-west are quite undisturbed. The tribes within a radius of 12 miles on every side of Fez remain also quite law-abiding.

With regard to the general lawlessness alluded to, I should not think it likely to spread much within the next two or three months; but once their harvest has been secured (say by the 15th July) and the tribesmen have nothing to do until ploughing begins in October, it may quite probably incline to increase very much if the Sultan does not return to this neighbourhood, or, at the least, strengthen the Viceroy's forces considerably.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—I should observe that traffic on the roads between Fez and Rabat, Laraiche and Tangier has not been, and is not now, disturbed.

J. M. M.

---



## No. 94.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 19.)*

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 13, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit a further Memorandum of Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod as to the alleged participation of Moorish tribesmen in the fighting in the Charouin district. This Memorandum gives more details than were contained in the short cypher report on which I founded my above-mentioned despatch, but I still would not include the possibility of some of the Aits Atta having taken part in the engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 94.

*Report of alleged Participation by Moorish Tribesmen in Fight between Arabs and French at Charonin about March* 10, 1901.

(Confidential.)

A MOORISH merchant here, who does regular trade with Tafilelt, told me yesterday evening that he had just received a letter from his friends there in which it was stated that 400 or 500 of the Arabs engaged in the fight at Charouin about the 10th March were Moorish tribesmen, mostly of Aits Atta. These, according to my informant, were people dissatisfied with the Sultan's prohibition of hostilities with the French, and who had, so to speak, emigrated temporarily to Tuat to help their fellow Moslems.

The survivors, who have returned to Tafilelt, though admitting having lost 130 or so of their number killed, were eager to fight again, but the Commander of the Moorish troops persuaded them to give up such ideas.

It would seem to me very unlikely that there is much foundation for this report. The scene of the fight in question is at least seven days' march from Tafilelt—a much further distance than those tribes (*i.e.* as tribes) are usually willing to go.

I mention the story, however, for should there prove to be some sort of foundation for it, the presence of Moorish tribesmen at Charouin, even as isolated individuals or in small groups of individuals and not *en masse* as a tribe, might possibly afford the French a pretext for further advances towards Tafilelt, or further demands in connection with that region.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

*Fez, April* 5, 1901.

---

## No. 95.

*Treasury to Foreign Office.—(Received April* 19.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, April* 18, 1901.

I HAVE laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury your letter of the 12th instant, respecting the proposed mission of Sir A. Nicolson to Rabat to present his new credentials to the Sultan of Morroco.

I am to request you to inform the Marquess of Lansdowne that my Lords sanction the proposed necessary expenditure on this service, estimated at 180*l.*

Their Lordships further sanction, at the authorized rates, the cost of subsistence, while on board His Majesty's ship of war, of His Majesty's Minister, and those members of his staff who may be conveyed from Tangier to Rabat and back in that manner.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

---

## No. 96.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 37.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 28 of the 15th ultimo forwarding a Memorandum giving the proposals of Ben Saïd, the Moorish Commissioner, as regards the execution and interpretation of the Madrid Convention with reference to the question of protection, and the remarks of the foreign Representatives at Tangier on Ben Saïd's suggestions.

I approve your action as regards this subject generally.

As for the question of the right of non-resident firms to appoint semsars, to which point you call special attention, I propose to defer sending you definite instructions until I have before me the counter-project, mentioned in your despatch as about to form the subject of discussion by the Diplomatic Body, dealing with the failure of the Moorish Government to fulfil the provisions of the Madrid Convention.

In the meanwhile, you should continue your endeavours to bring round a majority of your colleagues to the views held by you and the United States' Representative on this question of the right of non-resident firms to semsars.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

## No. 97.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 20.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord, *Paris, April* 19, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 120 of the 29th March, I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of the 11th instant, from which it would appear that it has been determined to survey the Kenadsa route with a view to the prolongation of the Oran–Ain-Sefra Railway to Igli. The effect of this route being adopted has been explained in my despatch above mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

### Inclosure in No. 97.

*Extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of April* 11, 1901.

LA RENTRÉE DES COLONNES DU TOUAT.—L'hiver 1900–1901 nous a été particulièrement favorable dans nos opérations de l'Extrême-Sud Oranais.

On sait que le déchet qui s'était produit l'année dernière, à l'époque de la conquête des oasis, a eu pour principale cause la chaleur excessive qui règne dans ces régions de Mai à Septembre. Le surmenage créé par les nouvelles alarmantes venues de Maroc n'avait fait que s'ajouter à la cause principale du mal : le soleil.

On a tenu compte cette année de l'expérience acquise et il est probable que nos opérations militaires et la rentrée des dernières troupes qui y ont pris part seront choses terminées d'ici quelques jours.

Le Général Servières a purgé le Gourara ; il a soumis de proche en proche les ksour qui nous étaient hostiles et a gagné à notre cause les tribus hésitantes ; les uns ont dû payer une rançon de guerre, livrer des otages et s'incliner devant la force de nos armes ; les autres se sont inclinés devant l'autorité de nos Généraux.

Le Général Servières rentre dans la Province d'Alger en passant par Timimoun, effectuant son retour en sens inverse de l'aller, tandis que le Général Risbourg. après avoir poussé jusqu'à Kerzas une petite colonne sous le commandement du Colonel Billet est remonté avec le reste de sa colonne vers la Province d'Oran. Sa mission a abouti au but qu'il se proposait : il a reçu l'assurance de la fidélité des Chefs de Kerzas, Beni Abbès, Kenadsa, &c., et va incessamment, si ce n'est pas chose faite à l'heure qu'il est, présider



au départ de la petite colonne chargée d'escorter notre Commission d'Étude du tracé du Chemin de Fer l'Oued Zousfana et l'Oued Guir.

A cet effet, deux bataillons d'infanterie et un escadron de cavalerie, sous les ordres du Lieutenant-Colonel du 2e Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens, ont été réunis à Djenant-ed-Dar, sur la rive gauche de l'oued Zousfana, point extrême de la partie du tracée définitivement adopté au delà du Duveyrier.

La marche de ce détachement s'opéra pacifiquement, puisque d'une part, nous nous sommes assuré des intentions bienveillantes des habitants des ksour et oasis qui seront traversés et que, d'autre part, le succès de nos armes a réduit, pour quelque temps du moins, l'humeur batailleuse des nomades Oulad Djerid, Doui Menia et Beraber. Ce n'est donc qu'à titre d'escorte nécessaire que ce détachement a été constitué.

Ceux de nos lecteurs qui voudront bien s'y reporter trouveront dans le numéro du 29 Mars dernier, une carte qui leur permettra de se rendre compte de la première moitié de la route que va suivre la Commission d'Étude et qui correspond au tracé indiqué par un point-tiré, sous la rubrique nouveau projet, au delà de Djenan-ed-Dar, vers Kenadsa et Igli.

Les Marocains sont pour le moment tranquilles ; il n'y a donc pas lieu de concevoir la moindre inquiétude, relativement à l'heureuse issue de la mission en cours d'exécution.

Je voudrais maintenant appeler l'attention des pouvoirs publics sur l'opportunité qu'il y a à l'établissement d'un réseau télégraphique reliant nos postes de l'Extrême-Sud et aboutissant à Timimoun, avant même l'achèvement de la voie ferrée sur Igli.

La dépense résultant de l'installation d'un réseau complet, à l'abri de tout acte de vandalisme possible, n'excéderaient pas 4 millions, et devra être consentie tôt ou tard.

La question d'urgence mérite en tous cas d'être examinée ; on en comprend toute la portée, et il n'est pas douteux que l'Administration Coloniale, toujours soucieuse des grands intérêts dont elle a la charge, apportera à cet examen sa sollicitude coutumière.

---

## No. 98.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April* 21, 1901.

MOORISH Mission to London.

Owing to certain matters of a personal nature, the Minister of War is afraid to leave Morocco. His place will, therefore, be taken by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Sultan trusts that a man-of-war will convey Mission to England, as has always been done in the case of former Missions to other countries. If this can be managed His Majesty will be grateful. I indirectly suggested, however, that a mail packet from Gibraltar would be a more comfortable method of conveyance. The Mission proposes to be at Mazagan on the 31st May, so if arrangements can be made for a man-of-war it would do very well if it reached Mazagan by the 1st or 2nd June. I shall, I hope, be able to limit the number of members of Mission, servants included, to twelve persons.

I have been asked my opinion by the Sultan as to whether the Mission could visit Paris and St. Petersburgh, as well as London and Berlin. I told him that personally it seemed to me that as the Moorish Government had promised formerly to send a Mission to Russia this promise should be carried out, and it would be difficult, without causing misapprehension, to avoid going to Paris if Mission visited the three Courts, and I thought that possibly advantage might be gained by an interchange of views between the French Government and the Mission. I added, however, that the question was one which the Sultan should really settle himself.

The French Agent at Court, I am confidentially informed, has told the Minister for Foreign Affairs that it is through Russia rather than through any other nation that France would prefer to arrange the frontier question.

---

No. 99.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.*—(*Received April* 23.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, April* 22, 1901.

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential letter and inclosure of the 18th instant, and to inform you that the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station has been acquainted by telegram that the visit of Sir Arthur Nicolson to Rabat has been abandoned.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

---

No. 100.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord, *Paris, April* 22, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting military movements in South Algeria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 100.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 28.)

Sir, *Paris, April* 22, 1901.

NEWS, dated Algiers, 20th April, has just been received of Generals Servière and Risbourg.

The latter was *en route* for Oran about the 8th instant, and should arrive there shortly now.

General Servière, having finished his tour of inspection in the Tuat, was moving northwards by the Saoura and Zousfana Ouaddis. General Servière announced his arrival at Algiers for about the 15th May. From here he will send home his Report. He states that the wounded from Timmimoun and Charouin are doing well, and that the general health of the troops is excellent.

The Government is said to be occupied with schemes for a system of wireless telegraphy for these districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

---

No. 101.

*Foreign Office to Mr. J. Byrne.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant relative to your Concessions at Adrar, and to inform you that the Moorish Government have not yet notified His Majesty's Minister at Tangier that custom-houses have been established at Cape Juby.

A copy of your letter will be forwarded to Sir Arthur Nicolson, and he will be requested to recall the serious attention of the Moorish Government to the matter.



With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, I am to state that a Convention was last year concluded between France and Spain for the delimitation of the French and Spanish possessions in North-west Africa. By that Convention Adrar (Tmarr) is left within French territory, and Adrar (Sutuf) is included in the territory attributed to Spain.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN

---

No. 102.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 39. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 25, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 44, Confidential, of the 10th instant, reporting your conversation with the German Minister at Tangier relative to the communications which have lately passed between you and the Court of Morocco, and the desire of the Sultan to send a Mission to London and Berlin.

I approve the course adopted by you, as recorded in that despatch, in unreservedly explaining the situation to Baron de Mentzingen.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 103.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 40. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 25, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 43, Secret, of the 9th instant, reporting the message which has been addressed to you by the Sultan relative to the movements of the French forces on the Moorish frontier, and their alleged intention to occupy Tafilelt.

I approve the general tenour of the reply sent by you to the Sultan, as recorded in that despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 104.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 41.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 25, 1901.

I TRANSMIT a copy of a letter from Mr. James Byrne relative to his trading Concessions at Adrar,* in which he inquires whether any further information has been received from you on the subject.

It will be within your recollection that in March 1899 Mr. Byrne asked what steps were necessary to obtain permission to trade at Cape Juby, and that the Grand Vizier, to whom you referred the matter, requested that British merchants should postpone operations until custom-houses had been established there. In a note addressed to him by Mr. White, Hamed-ben-Moussa was reminded that four years had elapsed since the Moorish Government had engaged, by Articles IV and VI of the Agreement of the 13th March, 1895, to keep Cape Juby open for buying and selling, and to give sites under certain conditions to merchants desiring to trade. As in his reply there were indications that the Moorish Government intended indefinitely to postpone the measures which they had represented as being necessary to enable the Agreement to be carried into effect, you addressed a further note to him on the subject, a copy of which was inclosed in your despatch No. 122 of the 21st October, 1899.

* No. 78.

Since that date His Majesty's Government have heard nothing more of the matter, although the Moorish Government originally undertook that you should be informed as soon as the necessary preparations had been made at Cape Juby.

I request that you will therefore once more call the serious attention of the Moorish Government to the non-observance of the engagements undertaken by them in the 1895 Agreement, and that you will point out that those engagements remain unfulfilled, although the Agreement was signed more than six years ago.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 105.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco is about to send a special Mission to this country, for the purpose of congratulating His Majesty the King upon his accesssion to the Throne.

The Sultan has expressed the hope that, as has always been the case with former Missions from Morocco to other European countries, the Mission will be conveyed to England by a ship of war.

The Mission as at present arranged will arrive at Mazagan on the 31st May. It will consist of the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs and a Suite, and His Majesty's Minister at Tangier hopes that its number will be limited to twelve persons, including servants.

I am to inquire whether it will be convenient for one of His Majesty's ships to convey the members of the Mission to this country from Mazagan. If so, the requirements of the case will be met, according to the information received from His Majesty's Minister, if the ship, which is detailed for the service, can be at Mazagan on the 1st or 2nd of June next.

I am, &c.
Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

No. 106.

*Foreign Office to Treasury.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 26, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, that His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco is about to send his Minister for Foreign Affairs with a Special Mission to this country, for the purpose of congratulating His Majesty the King on his accession to the Throne.

His Majesty's Minister at Tangier hopes that the number of the Mission will be limited to twelve persons, including servants.

The political situation in Morocco at the present time makes the reception of the Mission a matter of expediency, and the presence of the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs will afford a favourable opportunity for the discussion of questions of considerable importance.

On the occasions of the visits of former Moorish Missions to England in 1860 and 1876, the members were received and lodged as the guests of this country, and Lord Lansdowne trusts that the Lords Commissioners will authorize the expenditure necessary for the entertainment of the present Mission.

His Lordship is in communication with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty with regard to the conveyance of the members of the Mission to England on a British ship-of-war, which will entail an additional charge for their entertainment while on board.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

---



No. 107.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April* 27.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 19, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 40 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that the United States' Representative informed me that he received yesterday the instructions which he had been expecting. They were to the effect, he said, that, as the Moorish Government had, in their second communication, explained the misunderstanding which had arisen in regard to his mission to the Court, he was to take no further steps as to proceeding to Morocco city, as it was undesirable to cause any friction.

Mr. Gummere said he was much puzzled at this sudden change of attitude, and it placed him in a most invidious position. He had simply followed his instructions in insisting on a visit to the Court, and now that the Moorish authorities had made all the necessary preparations, and the escort and transport were waiting for him at Mazagan, his Government told him he was not to proceed.

I asked him whether he proposed to inform the Moorish Government that his visit was abandoned for the time, and whether he had been instructed to continue to press for the settlement of the American claims. He replied that he had received no instructions on either of these points, and that, therefore, he did not intend to take any steps.

The situation is a somewhat curious one, as, presumably, the Moorish Government will shortly ask to be informed as to what are Mr. Gummeré's plans, since they will find it inconvenient to retain indefinitely at Mazagan the escort and camp equipment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 108.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April* 27.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Madrid, April* 20, 1901.

ON the 13th April I informed your Lordship, by telegram, that I had spoken to the Foreign Minister regarding the Morocco question.

My telegram was so full that I have very little more to say; but I should like your Lordship to know that I was struck by the apparent surprise and pleasure with which the Duke of Almodóvar received my first words on the subject, and by his readiness to enter upon an explanation of his own views. I began by saying that the accounts I had seen of the state of affairs on the Morocco frontier since my arrival in Spain had made me feel that there was considerable risk of a collision between the French and the border tribes, and I asked him whether he had any information as to the present temper of the tribesmen, as the matter seemed to be one which might lead to very awkward consequences.

The Duke of Almodóvar at once replied that he was very glad indeed I had mentioned the subject, which was of the greatest importance to Spain, and particularly glad to know that I thought a collision between the French and the tribesmen might turn out a serious matter. He said that in his opinion I was very far from exaggerating the likelihood of the danger of such a collision; that on the contrary, if the French went on as they had been doing for some years past, a serious collision was a certainty, and that no one could say what would be the result, as the future of Morocco was a matter in which the material interests of so many civilized countries were concerned.

I said that I had no wish to lay the fault on the French; that I had been much in the East, and had seen how difficult it was for European Powers to avoid border troubles when they came into contact with loosely-knit States of an Asiatic type.

The Duke did not seem to receive this view with favour. He said the alleged provocations offered by the tribes were mere pretexts; that they were in reality very much afraid of the French, and that they would certainly remain quiet if let alone. His Excellency told me he had lately had a conversation with a Spanish

doctor resident in Morocco, who told him things were quieter than usual at this moment, and that there was no immediate cause for alarm.

He then went on to speak, as I reported in my telegram, about an understanding between France and England. He said that if England was alive to the risk of a collision between France and Morocco, as she must be, he could not understand why we had not interfered to prevent France going as far as she had gone. He asserted that she had overstepped the boundary formerly recognized by her, and that we had had ample grounds for remonstrance. Seeing that we made none, and that the French went on pushing forward without any apparent fear of interference on our part, he had supposed that there must be some reason, unknown to him, for the boldness and confidence of their action, and had finally concluded that they must have an understanding with us which gave them a free hand. As I informed your Lordship in my telegram, he pressed this point rather strongly, and seemedr elieved at my replying that so far as I knew there was no understanding of the kind.

Altogether, the impression left on my mind by the interview was that the Duke of Almodóvar was, as he declared, very apprehensive about the proceedings of the French in this quarter, and anxious to maintain the *status quo*. Nothing could be more explicit and, apparently, straightforward than his assertions in this regard. He said, speaking in English, that Spain could only lose by a disturbance of the present equilibrium; that, as always, "the weakest would go to the wall;" and that her interest and desire must be to keep things quiet if possible. But he said the French seemed to think they could act in Morocco without regard to the views of other European countries. That was unreasonable and dangerous. The question was one of international importance, and they could not expect to be allowed to settle it by themselves.

Yesterday I again saw the Duke of Almodóvar, and I then took occasion to inform him, without any qualifying expressions, as authorized by your Lordship's telegram No. 11 of the 15th instant, that there was no understanding between England and France giving the latter a free hand as regards the Morocco frontier.

He repeated the words carefully, and said he was very glad to have the assurance.

It was his day for receiving the Corps Diplomatique, and the attendance was very large, so I thought I had better take my leave without pursuing the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

---

## No. 109.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 27.)*

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, April 27, 1901.*

AT the Foreign Minister's weekly reception yesterday, his Excellency, after we had disposed of certain items of current business, told me that he was anxious to have a further conversation with me on the subject of Morocco. He said that your Lordship had discussed the subject with the Duke of Mandas, who, though without instructions, had spoken in much the same terms as he had himself employed in talking to me last week. His Excellency assured me that the policy of his Government in Morocco was quite straightforward and simple, consisting in the preservation of the *status quo*, as any disturbance thereof they knew must prove injurious to the interests of Spain. He said that the result of the careful inquiries which he had made into the present state of affairs in Morocco, was to convince him that there was no unusual discontent or unrest among the tribes.

His Excellency finally assured me that the policy of Spain in Morocco might be taken as an index of her general policy, the sole object of which was the avoidance of all foreign complications and the development of her internal prosperity.

He animadverted in strong terms on the recklessness of the newspapers which invented mischievous rumours, and informed me that he had taken occasion to contradict the statements published by the "Patrie" respecting an alleged proposal for an exchange of Ceuta and Gibraltar.

The conversation was evidently intended for repetition to your Lordship.

---



## No. 110.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, April 30, 1901.*

*Mr. Norman*,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether any communications have passed between His Majesty's Government and other Governments with regard to the movements of French troops in and towards the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco, and whether he can give the House any information upon the subject.

*Answer.*

His Majesty's Government have received no information that French troops have entered the dominions of the Sultan of Morocco. It has, on the contrary, been stated more than once by the French Government that the recent operations on the eastern frontier of Morocco have been undertaken, not from any hostility to that country, but in order to prevent the recurrence of attacks from the nomad tribes which infest its borders.

---

## No. 111.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.*

(No. 32. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 1, 1901.*

THE Spanish Ambassador reported to me to-day that he was instructed by his Government to confirm the language, which he had already used to me unofficially, with regard to the desire of the Spanish Government to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco.

Spain would range herself on the side of any Power or group of Powers which might pursue this policy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

## No. 112.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 3.)*

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 22, 1901.*

I HAVE been informed that the Minister of War has requested the Sultan to permit him to remain in this country and not to proceed as Envoy to England; and that His Majesty has granted this request, and has appointed as his Special Ambassador Cid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

It appears that the Minister of War fears lest his absence from Morocco would afford an opportunity to his enemies to undermine his position with the Sultan, and that, on his return, he might find that he had lost His Majesty's favour and protection. The Minister of War has, no doubt, many rivals at the Court, who are jealous of the influence he possesses and dislike his enlightened and progressive tendencies.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs is, after the Minister of War, the next best selection His Majesty could have made; and he will be accompanied by Cid Gabbas, Under-Secretary of War, who passed three years at Chatham, and by Zobehr Skerrigi, who was also three years in England. Cid Abdullah Ben Said, Governor of Sallee, and at present doing duty as one of the Sultan's Commissioners in Tangier, will, I believe, also form part of the Mission.

I am informed that the Mission will arrive at Mazagan at the end of May; and the Sultan has expressed a hope to me that they will be conveyed to England in one of His Majesty's ships of war. He has explained that when Moorish Missions have been dispatched to European Courts a man-of-war has always conveyed them to their

port of destination; and he trusts that it will be found possible on this occasion for a similar favour to be granted. If His Majesty's Government are able to accede to the Sultan's request, and I respectfully trust that they may be able to do so, I would venture to suggest that the man-of-war should arrive at Mazagan on the 1st or 2nd June, and this would enable the Mission to reach England about the 8th June, which, I trust, will be a convenient date.

As your Lordship has been good enough to express a wish that I should be present in London during the stay of the Mission, I should propose to leave Gibraltar on the 26th May; and I should be glad to be informed if your Lordship would permit me to bring with me Mr. Irwin, Interpreter to this Legation, as I think he would be of service while the Mission is in England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 113.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 22, 1901.

THE Sultan has conveyed to me his desire that the Mission he is sending to London and Berlin should also visit St. Petersburgh and Paris; and has requested me to give him my opinion as to whether it would be wise on his part to carry out this intention. I have intimated to His Majesty that, with all respect, I thought these were questions on which he should decide for himself; but that as he had been pleased to honour me with his confidence, I was prepared to convey privately my own personal opinion. As I had mentioned on a previous occasion, I understood that it had been arranged with the Russian Minister that a Mission would be dispatched to St. Petersburgh to convey the thanks of the Sultan for the establishment of a Russian Legation in Morocco; and that, in these circumstances, it would be well to carry out this engagement.

If the Mission visited the three Courts at London, Berlin, and St. Petersburgh, it would appear somewhat marked if it avoided Paris; and that, to my mind, it would be unfortunate if any cause were given for an impression that the Sultan regarded the French Government with suspicion or was indisposed to treat them with proper courtesy and consideration. Moreover, an interchange of views between the French Government and the Moorish Envoy might possibly be of advantage.

I trust your Lordship will pardon my not having referred the above point to you before replying to the Sultan, but it seemed to me, in the circumstances, preferable that any opinion I expressed should be simply a private and personal one, and not invested with any higher authority.

I was at the same time privately informed that Dr. Linares, the French Agent at Morocco City, had intimated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that if an arrangement as to the frontier between Morocco and Algeria were to be made, the French Government would prefer it should be initiated through the Russian than through any other Government.

I do not know if Dr. Linares had any authority to make this communication, but if some settlement of a satisfactory nature can be arrived at, the methods by which it is achieved are, perhaps, of secondary importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 114.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 23, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister mentioned to me to-day that he had been requested by the Duke of Almodovar to give his opinion on the existing situation in Morocco, as the Spanish Government understood that a certain uneasiness prevailed in the diplomatic



circles at Tangier as to the condition of affairs. M. de Ojeda asked me whether I had any reason to believe that there was any cause for exceptional anxiety.

I told him that from information which I had received there was considerable discontent and unrest in the country, which was, so far as I gathered, in great measure to be attributed to the oppression of the provincial officials, and also to the movements of the French troops on the frontier. The general situation, though not, perhaps, exactly critical, seemed to me far removed from being satisfactory. There appeared to be, I added, some apprehension lest the French forces would encroach further into Morocco, and there had, indeed, been rumours of the possibility of an occupation of Tafilelt.

M. de Ojeda expressed his doubts that so serious a step would be taken by the French authorities, as it would practically raise the whole Morocco question, and lead to war and anarchy.

I did not go further into the subject with M. de Ojeda, as he appeared to have no special information to give me, and I did not feel justified in communicating to him the anxiety of the Sultan and of the Moorish Government.

Before leaving M. de Ojeda, I mentioned that a Mission was shortly leaving for England to congratulate the King on his Accession; and I explained that it was over twenty years since a Moorish Envoy had visited my country. M. de Ojeda said he was glad to hear of this intention, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs would be the Envoy, as possibly the opportunity might be taken of impressing on his Excellency the necessity of giving more attention to the affairs submitted to him by the foreign Representatives. He asked if the Mission would proceed to other Courts. I told him I had no positive information on that point, but I imagined when once on their travels the Mission would take the opportunity of paying visits where they were due. As the question of the Mission is being already talked about down the coast, it seemed to me undesirable to preserve any further secrecy in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 115.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 23, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that I hear that the Sultan is considerably disturbed by some news which he has just received from Tafilelt to the effect that the French authorities have summoned the "zaoinas" (sanctuaries or religious establishments) of Kenadsa and of Karzaz on the River Insoura to make their submission within five days, or otherwise they would be occupied by force. The Sultan states that the "zaoinas" are large and influential, and belong to Tafilelt.

Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, in his Memorandum inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch, drew especial attention to a reported French occupation of Kenadsa, and it would, therefore, seem quite possible that this has occurred.

Kenadsa lies well to the westward of Figuig, and consequently within Moorish territory. I have not been able to find the "zaoina" of Karzaz marked on any map in my possession; the River Insoura runs close to Figuig.

The Sultan wished me to be informed of this recent step of the French authorities; but as he did not ask for any expression of opinion I propose to abstain from giving one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 116.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 5.)*

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 5, 1901.*

MOORISH Mission.

I understand that if the Moorish Government make the proposal, the French Minister would be prepared to recommend to his Government that the Mission should be received. The Court, I believe, is sending a letter to the French Minister in which the desire is expressed that the Mission should pay a visit to Paris.

---

No. 117.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 6.)*

(No. 55. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 26, 1901.*

I TOOK an opportunity to-day of informing the French Minister that the Sultan would shortly send a Mission to England to congratulate the King on his accession to the Throne, and that I should probably have to be in London during the visit of the Envoy. I told M. Révoil that twenty-five years had elapsed since a Moorish Mission had proceeded to England, and that it would have been difficult to decline a very natural and courteous suggestion on the part of the Sultan.

M. Révoil said he quite understood that, and asked if the Mission would visit other countries. I said that on that point I had no positive information, and he remarked that as visits were due both at Berlin and St. Petersburgh, he presumed these would be made.

He added that the Mission would very likely take the opportunity of ventilating their grievances as to Tuat. I observed that the Mission was a complimentary one; and I asked if he considered it probable that they would touch on political matters. M. Révoil said he had no information, but he could tell me that the Moorish Government were continually requesting that they should be allowed to send a Mission to Paris to discuss the above question, and that his Government invariably declined to receive one. He wished also to inform me that the Algerian authorities had convinced themselves that the assailants on the French post at Timmimoum did come from Tafilelt; and in fact that the expedition had been organized there under the eyes of the Moorish authorities. The French Government had been lenient in that matter; but that if eventually a lesson had to be administered, it would be short and sharp; and no prolonged occupation of Tafilelt would be undertaken.

I said the distance between Tafilelt and Timmimoum was considerable, and that I was somewhat surprised the tribes had made so long a journey. The Sultan, I believed, had done, and was doing, his best to control the Tafilelt people. The subject then dropped.

I had not previously heard that the Moorish Government had been so persistent in their wish to send a Mission to Paris, but, if they now make a fresh application, it may be more succesful than their former endeavours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 118.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 6.)*

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April 26, 1901.*

I RECEIVED this morning information from Morocco city that Hadj Mukhtar, the Minister of the Interior, had been dismissed from office and sent under escort to Fez. He has been succeeded by Cid Foudal Gharnit, who was formerly Minister for Foreign Affairs but who has been for the past six years without employment.

Hadj Mukhtar, a cousin of the late Grand Vizier, was for a short time also Grand



Vizier, but as he was not on good terms with the Minister of War he was soon deprived of this high post.

Since then he has lived a retired life, exercising no influence, but, if report speaks truly, much chagrined at the position enjoyed by his rival the Minister of War, and not too discreet in the expression of his discontent and of his disapproval of the new mode of life introduced into the Court. It is believed that some of his criticisms have been reported to the Sultan and that his disgrace and punishment promptly ensued.

I have not yet had time to ascertain what impression this unexpected action of the Sultan has made at the Court or whether Cid Gharnit's appointment indicates any change in political affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 119.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 6.)*

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 6, 1901.*

MOORISH Mission.

I am informed by the German Minister that his Government have telegraphed to him that the Mission will be received by the Emperor.

---

No. 120.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 43. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 7, 1901.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 52, Confidential, of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the desire expressed by the Sultan that the Mission he is sending to London and Berlin should also visit St. Petersburgh and Paris, and the personal opinion conveyed by you to His Majesty in reply to a communication on the subject.

I approve the judicious advice given by you as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 121.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 44. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 7, 1901.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 53, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, giving an account of your conversation with the Spanish Minister, relative to the state of affairs in Morocco, and the intention of the Sultan to send a Mission to this country.

The language used by you to M. de Ojeda, as recorded in that despatch, is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

## No. 122.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 1, 1901.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that news received from Tafilelt, dated the 5th April, announces that a body of the Beni Hamed sept of the Aits Atta had moved from the Tafilelt district to the south-south-east with the intention of attacking the French in or near Tuat.

Mr. Macleod's informant does not think that their object is more than to possess themselves of plunder by robbing convoys, &c. The Aits Atta in question are nomads and have their tents and belongings with them.

I think that some similar information has reached the Court, and that there is some doubt at the capital whether the tribes in Tafilelt are not getting out of control. My last news from Morocco city was dated the 21st ultimo, and I was informed that pressure had been put upon the Sultan to start at once for Tafilelt at the head of a large expedition in order to maintain tranquillity among the tribes in that district.

It was pointed out to the Sultan that if he carried out this intention the Tafilelt people would consider that His Majesty had arrived to assist them in recovering the districts recently occupied by the French, and when they discovered that his object was a very different one, matters might become very serious and he might find himself in a very embarrassing position. His Majesty has consequently declined to move from the capital at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 123.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 2, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 58 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that the news as to a portion of the Aits Atta having proceeded in the direction of Tuat has been confirmed, and it is said that they have taken six months' provisions with them. It would seem that the same individuals were engaged in the recent fighting in the Charouin district, as they boast of having on that occasion captured sixty camels loaded with ammunition and repeating rifles. Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod's informant states that many of these rifles and cartridges were sold openly in the Tafilelt markets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 124.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 60.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 2, 1901.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports to me that on the 10th instant the Moorish Governor at Udaghir, near Figuig, informed Bu Amama that the Sultan requested him to leave Figuig and proceed elsewhere. Bu Amama asked the people of Ain Shair to send a deputation to the Governor, requesting that he should be permitted to reside among them. This was done, and the matter has been referred to the Sultan for his decision. Ain Shair is almost due west of Figuig and in the Beni Guil country. I think that the readiness of Bu Amama to meet the Sultan's wishes shows that he is playing a double game, and that he is unwilling to take a decided line at present, and definitely to cast in his lot with the French. I should add that the French Minister here mentioned to me some time ago that he placed no great confidence in the professions of friendship of Bu Amama.



A native correspondent of the Fez Vice-Consulate states that Bu Amama is neutral and keeping himself apart, "simply worshipping God."

Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod also reports that he learns that the French authorities reqnested the people of the Ain Shair to permit them to trade with Tafilelt viâ Ain Shair, as it is an easier and better watered route than the other more direct roads. The Ain Shair people declined to agree to this, and have referred the question to the Sultan. In the meantime, Mr. Macleod states, the tribes round Ain Shair have established, at their own expense, a kind of permanent garrison, which is said to number about 3,000 men.

Mr. Macleod also reports that his most recent information is to the effect that Kenadsa has not been occupied by the French, but that a party of civil authorities, with a military escort, visited the place and remained very few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 125.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier. May* 2, 1901.

THE Russian Minister, who had just returned from a tour in Spain, asked me yesterday whether a Moorish Mission was proceeding to England, and on my replying in the affirmative, he inquired whether I had any information if the same Mission would visit other Courts. He said that he had been given privately to understand that the Sultan desired to dispatch a Mission to St. Petersburgh, but as nothing had been said officially he had been unable to ascertain the wishes of the Emperor on the subject. I told him that I was without official information on the subject, but that probably the Sultan would wish to profit by the occasion of the Mission being in Europe to utilize it for other visits.

M. de Bacheracht asked if I thought the same Mission would visit several Courts. I replied that I did not know, but I doubted if the Sultan would care to go to the expense and trouble of dispatching several independent Missions.

I understand from the Court that the French Agent there has informed the Moorish Govern ment that the Mission to St. Petersburgh must be distinct and separate from any other Mission, and must visit no other Courts but the Russian. He has also said that the French Government will not receive any Moorish Mission until the French Minister has presented his credentials to the Sultan, and this M. Révoil does not propose doing until the autumn. I am told that the Moorish Government, nevertheless, are writing to the French and Russian Ministers, expressing the hope that it will be found convenient to receive a friendly Mission from the Sultan during the course of the summer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 126

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 9.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 3, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, giving some information as to a reported intention of the French authorities to send a punitive expedition against certain sections of the Aits Atta. It would, I think, be well to await some confirmation of the above report, as it seems to me somewhat doubtful that a serious expedition would be undertaken at this season and without a considerable force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 126.

*Memorandum by Vice-Consul Macleod respecting French Projects near Tafilelt.*

A REPORT which reached here yesterday from Tafilelt states that the French have just asked their new friends, the Doui Menia, to allow them to pass freely through their territory to attack the Berbers [the Aits Atta] of Tauz and Maider. (I have not been able to identify the latter place on any of the maps I have, but I gather it lies between Wad Guir and Tauz.)

The French, according to my informant, wish to occupy that district so as to be able to stop the Aits Atta and Wad Draa people interfering with their operations in Igli and Tuat.

The Doui Menia, it is said, communicated this request to the Aits Atta, saying they were unable to resist the French demand, but feared the vengeance of the Aits Atta if they complied with it.

The Aits Atta replied that they had no objection to the French being allowed to pass through the Doui Menia's country, for they were quite ready and willing to fight the French if they came.

In view of the facts that the Aits Atta have apparently taken part in the recent fight at Charouin, and have been plundering French convoys and the like, there seems to be reason to fear this report may have some foundation.

The movement referred to would obviously have serious results, for the occupation of Tauz by the French would apparently enable them to dominate the region south of Tafilelt, and place them within easy striking distance—40 miles or so—of that oasis itself.

It would mean a net advance westwards by the French of about 100 miles since last year, when Igli was accounted the most westerly point they designed to occupy; and, if the present rate of progress generally be maintained, would, I should fear, result very speedily in the disappearance of the Sultan's sovereignty in all the territories east of the Atlas and as far south as the Wad Draa.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

*Fez, April* 29, 1901.

---

No. 127.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 15.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 15, 1901.

MY despatch No. 64 of the 5th instant.

I am informed by the French Minister that in order that the Moorish Government may be impressed with the gravity of the case, he intends that the presentation of his demands for reparation shall be accompanied by the presence at Mazagan of one or two ships of war.

I inquired of him whether before making a naval demonstration he would not await the Moorish Government's reply, but he seemed to think that the demonstration should be simultaneous with the presentation of demands.

Taking into consideration the general situation in Morocco, unless absolutely necessary a display of force at the present moment may agitate further the public mind and is to be regretted.

---

No. 128.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 16.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 5, 1901.

I ASKED the French Minister yesterday whether he had received any intimation from the Moorish Government of a desire that the Mission which was proceeding to London should also visit Paris. M. Révoil said no official communication had reached him, but he understood such an idea existed; and that though he had formerly been opposed to a Moorish Mission being received by his Government, he would now recommend



that no objection should be raised. He thought the situation on the frontier was entering a calmer phase, and that as the Mission was on their travels he could see no objection to their visiting Paris, provided, of course, that the Moorish Government expressed the wish and that his Government were willing to receive an Envoy.

I said that personally I trusted the matter could be arranged, as an interchange of views between his Government and the Moorish Envoy might lead to the removal of some misconceptions, and might still further tranquillize a situation which, I was glad to hear from him, was improving. M. Révoil quite agreed with my view, and said he would await an official communication from the Moorish Government. I am informed from the Court that letters have been written to the French and Russian Ministers suggesting that the Mission should, after their visit to England, proceed to the French and Russian capitals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 129.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 16.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 5, 1901.

THE French Minister informed me yesterday that he had been obliged to postpone a visit which he had contemplated making to the coast towns, as he would be detained here till he had obtained satisfaction for the murder of M. Pouzet at Cabo de Agua.

M. Révoil gave me an account of the occurrence as he had gathered it from a study of the very careful inquiry which had been made into the matter by the French authorities. M. Louis Say and M. Pouzet, he said, had proceeded, with some refugee Bocoyans, to Cabo de Agua to negotiate with the Governor of the district for the sale of some barley, as they had been given to understand that the people in that locality desired to purchase that cereal. They had landed without arms and had met with a rude reception from the Governor, who disclaimed all knowledge of any proposal to enter into business transactions of the above-mentioned nature, and stated that neither he nor his people desired to purchase any barley. The French gentlemen, perceiving that it would not be prudent to enter upon a discussion, returned to their boat and put off from the shore to go on board the felucca, which had brought them there. The Governor then seized some of the Bocoyans who were with them, on the ground that they were rebels to his master, the Sultan; but one escaped and swam off to the small boat which was carrying the rest of the party to the felucca. The Governor and his men then opened fire on the boat, and M. Pouzet fell mortally wounded, the boat capsizing, having been riddled with bullets.

M. Révoil explained that by Article VII of the Treaty of 1845 any individual who had taken refuge in Algeria was under French protection, and that, consequently, the Governor was at fault in seizing the Bocoyans, and he was still more to blame for having fired on a boat in which were French citizens. It was possible that he did not wish to injure the Frenchmen, but this was no extenuation of his offence.

I may recall to your Lordship that the Bocoyans belong to the tribe which was engaged in the acts of piracy of recent years, and that numbers of them were given an asylum in Algeria when the Sultan proceeded to take action against them.

M. Révoil said that he was awaiting instructions from his Government as to the reparation he should demand for the murder of M. Pouzet, and he thought that he would be told to insist on the severe punishment of the Governor.

I asked M. Révoil whether the Governor had given any explanation of his action, and whether the Moorish authorities had made any communication to him on the subject. He replied that very shortly after the occurrence the Sultan's Deputy here had written him a note complaining of the proceedings of the French gentlemen, to which, so far as I could understand, he took exception on the ground that they were endeavouring to initiate a contraband trade in a district where there were no Customs officials of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 130.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 16, 1901.

I HAVE received a message from the Sultan stating that news had just reached him that the French are quite near Tafilelt, and consequently he is once more most agitated. I think it possible that His Majesty's fears are being worked upo, as I can hardly believe this information to be correct.

In view of the agitation existing in the country, the visit of the French Minister in a man-of-war to the ports was also deprecated by the Sultan. M. Révoil has postponed this visit; but when His Majesty hears of the approaching visit of two French men-of-war who are to convey French demands he will, I fear, be far more perturbed. It is quite possible, I also consider, that the presence of these vessels at the present moment may produce serious effects. I am informed by M. Révoil that their arrival is daily expected.

---

No. 131.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 17, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that this morning, the two French cruisers, "Du Chayla" and "Pothuan" arrived at Tangier.

---

No. 132.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 65.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 10, 1901.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 41 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting a prompt fulfilment of Articles 4 and 6 of the Cape Juby Agreement of 1895.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 132.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Abdel Kerin-ben-Sliman.*

(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 21 *Moharram*, 1319 (*May* 10, 1901).

ON several occasions I have had occasion to address the Moorish Government in regard to the fulfilment of certain obligations which they undertook to perform under Articles 4 and 6 of the Agreement regarding Cape Juby, and I regret to observe that not only has no attempt been made to carry out the engagements accepted by the Moorish Government, but that a note which I addressed to the late Grand Vizier on the subject so long ago as the 21st October, 1899, has remained without acknowledgment.

The Moorish Government originally undertook that I should be informed when the necessary preparations were completed at Cape Juby so that merchants might establish themselves there in accordance with the Agreement between the two Governments, and this notification was made to this Legation so long ago as 7 Safar, 1317 (the 16th June, 1899). I need not point out to your Excellency that ample time has elapsed since then for all necessary arrangements to have been made; and those merchants who are desirous of opening trade are naturally much surprised at the inexcusable delay which has occurred.



Moreover, the matter is not one simply touching the interests and rights of merchants. It is one which closely affects the fulfilment of an Agreement made more than six years ago between my Government and that of His Majesty the Sultan. It would be a subject of deep regret to me if I were compelled to inform my Government that certain and not the least important of the provisions of that Agreement are ignored by the Moorish Government, and that the engagements which were undertaken are deliberately allowed to remain in abeyance.

I trust, therefore, that I shall receive without delay from your Excellency a definite assurance that no further postponement will be allowed, and that those merchants who are desirous of acquiring sites, and who have already made application for them, will have their wishes promptly and satisfactorily met.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 133.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 66. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 11, 1901.

I AM informed that the French Minister has addressed a further communication to the Moorish Government calling their attention to the continued agitation among certain of the Tafilelt tribes, and warning them that if any acts of hostility are committed the French forces will be compelled to inflict a punishment. The note, I am told, adds that in order to render such punishment effectual, French troops would enter the Tafilelt district and destroy the houses and properties of the guilty parties, but that the troops would be withdrawn immediately this had been accomplished. The French note further comments on the fact that the Moorish Commandant and his troops are evidently unable to control the tribes, and that the French authorities have consequently been obliged to reinforce their frontier forces and station troops along the frontier and at the same time push on the extension of the railway lines.

I do not know if this note has been based on the report, which I mentioned in my despatch No. 59 of the 2nd instant, that a section of the Aits Atta had proceeded on a pillaging expedition in the direction of Tuat, though it would seem quite possible that the French Legation had received notice of that movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 134.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 11, 1901.

SEVERAL of my colleagues and myself have received information from Morocco city that the Minister of War has been appointed Grand Vizier and that his brother succeeds him in his former post. This information is not official, but I have no reason to doubt its accuracy, as it was generally understood that the Sultan contemplated making these appointments.

I trust that the new Grand Vizier will introduce some business methods into the Government, as recently affairs have practically been at a standstill and no attention has been paid to current questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 135.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 12, 1901.

CID ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has informed me that he has been appointed by the Sultan of Morocco as His Majesty's Special Ambassador to England, and that he will be accompanied by the following staff, who will rank in the order named:—

1. Kaïd Maclean.
2. Cid Mohammed Gabbas, Under-Secretary of War.
3. Cid Abdel Hamid, Governor of Ruhamah.
4. Cid Zobeir Skeerj, Interpreter.
5. Cid Mohammed-bel-Kaab, Interpreter.
6. A Secretary (unnamed).

The Mission will be attended by two of the Sultan's bodyguard and ten servants.

His Excellency informs me that the Mission will arrive at Mazagan without fail on the 31st May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 136.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 20, 1901.

MY telegram No. 18 of the 17th instant.

Last night the two French cruisers left Tangier for Mazagan; they conveyed the senior Dragoman of the French Legation, who is to present the demands. The demands, according to my information, were first presented on the 17th instant to the Sultan's Deputy at Tangier, requesting that a reply should be given in eight days. The Deputy did not feel himself in a position to act without having received orders from the Sultan, and it would have been practically impossible for him to receive a reply within the given period. As no Moorish official was present at the French inquiry, the Deputy expressed his willingness to at once appoint a Moorish Commission to examine into the affair. 4,000*l.* is, I am told, the amount of the indemnity claimed. The cruisers ought to reach Mazagan by to-day, and eight days is, I believe, the limit of time for them to remain there, awaiting the reply from the Court.

(Confidential.)

My colleagues seem generally agreed that unnecessary precipitation is being shown by the French Legation in this matter.

---

No. 137.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 15, 1901.

THE French Minister was dining with me last night and in the course of conversation after dinner he mentioned that he expected that one or two French men-of-war would shortly proceed to Mazagan to present the demands which he would be instructed to make on the Moorish Government for the murder of a French subject at Cabo di Agua. He said that the case was so clear that any discussion on the subject was unnecessary and he understood that his Government would demand the arrest and imprisonment at Tangier of the offending Governor, the release of the Borogano who had been seized, the payment of a reasonable indemnity, and an apology from the Moorish Government. He regretted, he continued, to be compelled to depart from the normal method of procedure in such cases, but his Government viewed the question in a serious light, and



it was necessary to impress on the Moorish Government the gravity of the offence which had been committed.

I asked M. Révoil whether he had made any representations as yet to the Moorish Government, and whether they had been afforded an opportunity of giving any satisfaction. M. Révoil replied that he had handed in to Hadj Mohammed Torres a statement of the facts of the case, with a request that he would transmit it to the Moorish Government, and he thought that this communication should by now be in their hands. He would wait a few days to see if any reply would be made. I inquired whether this statement contained any specific demands and he replied in the negative.

I then asked him whether he would not first send in his demands and await a reply, before dispatching the ships down the coast. He said that neither his Government nor himself would be willing to adopt this course, and that in view of the circumstances of the case he considered it desirable that the men-of-war should be the bearers of the French demands, so that the Moorish Government might understand that his Government would admit of no trifling or procrastination.

M. Révoil then explained to me at some length that the patience of his Government had been sorely tried of late, that none of his claims received any satisfaction, and that in the recent affairs on the frontier the Moorish authorities had acted with great negligence and indifference. He repeated again to me that the authorities at Tafilelt had permitted an expedition to equip itself and attack the French port at Timmimoun; and that in view of the general attitude of the Moorish Government he was convinced that a display of force on the coast was necessary.

I told M. Révoil that in the matter of inattention to claims he was not the only sufferer, as I was also in a similar position; and that I thought such matters might be conveniently left till he visited the Court or till the Mission arrived in Paris. M. Révoil said he did not wish to make too great a point of the claims; but it seemed to him that there was no Government in Morocco: the Sultan appeared to be entirely preoccupied with his amusements, and this frivolity, he could tell me, was producing a very bad effect in the country. Official business was at a standstill, and the coffers of the Customs were being emptied to pay for Court amusements. He mentioned, as an instance, that the arrears of pay due to the French Military Mission and for which he had received an order on the Tangier Customs could not be met, as the Sultan's deputy assured him that not a centime was left in the Treasury. He asked me if I had any prescription to offer for all these ills. I said I could only suggest patience, and, though it was none of my business, it seemed to me unfortunate, in view of the sensitive situation in the country, if so disturbing an element as vessels of war were introduced at this moment. If the Moorish Government were made acquainted with the demands which he was instructed to present, and a limited time given for their satisfaction, I thought that he would find a display of force would be unnecessary. M. Révoil did not seem to be of this opinion, and our conversation thus terminated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 138.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 14th February, I have the honour to report that the meetings between the foreign Representatives and the Moorish Commissioners have been suspended owing to the obstacles which were being continually placed by the Moorish Commissioners in the way of any results being arrived at. The discussions finally broke down on the question of municipal taxes, in regard to which subject the Moorish Commissioners showed clearly that they intended to frustrate any scheme of taxation, although in the project under deliberation the proposed taxes fell but lightly on the majority of Moorish subjects.

I do not attribute the failure to the Moorish Government, as it was principally due to the destruction of one or two of the Moorish Commissioners.

The Diplomatic Body has represented the matter to the Moorish Government, and has requested that orders should be sent which will preclude any vexatious obstruction in the future.

I trust that a fresh Moorish Commission will eventually be appointed which will prove more amenable than its predecessor; though I am still of opinion that satisfactory results would more likely be attained by direct negotiation with the central Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 139.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)*

(No. 71. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1901.

I RECEIVED this afternoon a message from the Sultan to the effect that he had received news from Tafilelt stating that the French forces were close to Abuan, in the very heart of the Tafilelt Oasis. His Majesty was much agitated at this news, as he considers that, if the report be correct, the people there are sure to take up arms and there will be a general revolution throughout the country. He sent me, in original, a letter he had received from the Commandant of his troops at Tafilelt, in order to show me that the people were anxious to obey his orders to remain quiet; but His Majesty observed that if the French were to enter the oasis he would not answer for the consequences. I beg leave to transmit a translation of this letter.

The Sultan consulted with some of his confidential advisers as to what course he should adopt in the circumstances, and it was suggested to his Majesty that orders should be renewed to the Tafilelt people to remain quiescent, even if the French did enter the oasis.

At the same time it was pointed out that it was improbable that the French forces would suddenly advance into Morocco, as such a step would endanger the security of all Europeans in the country, and that, consequently, the French authorities would previously warn the European Powers of their proposed action.

The Minister of War demurred to the proposed inaction on the ground that it would encourage the French forces to advance; but the Sultan overruled his objection, and directed that letters should be sent forthwith to Tafilelt.

I have my doubts as to the accuracy of the reports received by the Sultan; and it is possible that certain people at Tafilelt are desirous of creating alarm and of inducing His Majesty to take active measures.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 139.

*El Mahjoub-ben-el-Erutaai to His Majesty the Sultan.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 12 *Moharram*, 1319 (*May* 1, 1901).

MAY my Lord, God guard thee, know that on Thursday, the 5th Moharram (the 24th April, 1901), the Shereefs assembled and appointed a Sheikh from among them for carrying out what they agreed to under the present misfortune (*i.e.*, to keep quiet), and they announced, through criers, to the Chiefs of those present that all who should go out to sell or buy, whether Moslems or Jews, they would thoroughly punish them, and confiscate their money. They were unanimous in this at their meeting.

The Shorfa, Tafileltis, the Ghorfa, Beni Mehemmed, Ait Kebbash, the Arab Sebbah, and all those adjacent to them said they had hitherto followed this course, and would do so in future, as it is by our Lord's (the Sultan's) command; and they did it desiring to show obedience to our Lord (the Sultan), assisted by God. As this happened, it is incumbent upon me to inform my Lord.

Peace.

(Signed) EL MAHJOUB-BEN-EL-ERUTAAI.

---



No. 140.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)*

(No. 72. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 16, 1901.

I HAVE received information from the Court that the Sultan, having heard of the contemplated visit of the French Minister to the coast towns in a man-of-war, expressed the opinion that this was not a friendly act at the present moment, when the country was somewhat disturbed by events on the frontier. His Majesty thought that the French Minister might have selected another occasion for paying the visit, or gone in a quieter manner.

This visit, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 64 of the 6th instant, has been postponed, owing to the incident which has arisen in connection with the murder of a French citizen on the Riff coast; but the anxiety of the Sultan will, I am convinced, be much greater when he learns that two men-of-war are proceeding to the coast, bearing what may be termed an ultimatum.

I think His Majesty's apprehensions are not without good foundation, and the sudden advent of two French vessels of war, whose number, size, and mission are certain to be greatly exaggerated throughout the country, will at this moment probably lead to the supposition that French aggression is about to occur by sea on the west, as well as by land on the east.

I am not alone among my colleagues in fearing that this step on the part of the French Government may cause more excitement than previous displays of naval force have occasioned, and when excitement is once spread among the Moorish people, it is difficult to predict what form it will assume. I venture to submit that, in the circumstances, it is to be regretted that the French Minister should have considered it desirable to take these extreme measures before an opportunity had been offered to the Moorish Government of meeting any demands which his Government might present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 141.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)*

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 22, 1901.

THE Governor-Generalship of Algeria has been offered to the French Minister here. M. Révoil will probably accept the post.

---

No. 142.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 22.)*

(No. 21. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 22, 1901.

MOORISH Mission.

The Ambassador will, I am informed, only be the bearer of a letter of congratulation from the Sultan to the King, and will bring no letter concerning the difficulties on the Algerian frontier.

This latter letter had been discouraged by me.

Commercial facilities and affairs relating thereto will be included in the matters, concerning which he is empowered to treat.

Separate Missions will probably be sent by the Sultan to Russia and France.

---

No. 143.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 65, of the 10th instant, inclosing a copy of the note which you have addressed to the Moorish Government requesting that Articles IV and VI of the Cape Juby Agreement of 1895 may be promptly carried into effect.

I approve the terms of that note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 144.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 25.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 19, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister informed me that a few days ago a body of mountaineers visited the house of a Spaniard living in the neighbourhood of Arzila, some 25 miles from Tangier, and, after severely ill-treating the man, carried off his daughter, aged 20, and his son, aged 10. M. de Ojeda has set in motion all the authorities available, and is employing other indirect means for the recovery of the captives, but, hitherto, the search has been unsuccessful; and it is feared that they have been carried away to the interior of the mountains.

The Spaniard is a man of humble means, and earns his living apparently by rearing pigs, and by some it is considered probable that the ravages committed by these—to the Mussulman mind—unclean animals have roused a feeling of animosity against him. Others state that the mountaineers are hostile to the Governor of Arzila, and hope by bringing him into a difficulty with a European nation to obtain his removal from office. This act of brigandage is a sign of the lawlessness which is, I fear, spreading throughout the country, and which can only be attributed to the negligence of the Central Government and the oppression of the provincial officials. In this connection I may mention that I recently received a message from Alcazar, about 50 miles from Tangier, that news had been received there that some tribes in the neighbourhood of Wazzan were projecting a raid on that town. In the Sefroo district, near Fez, intertribal dissensions are very active, and some of the trade routes are closed; while from other parts of the country disorders are reported.

M. de Ojeda told me that his Government had offered to send some ships of war to Tangier, but that he had deprecated their dispatch because they would not assist him in his search for the captives, and because their presence here simultaneously with the French cruizers would give rise to many misapprehensions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 145.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 25.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 19, 1901.

THE dismissal of the Minister for the Interior and of some of the high Court functionaries, among whom was a brother of the late Grand Vizier, has, I hear, produced a very bad impression among all classes in the country. Those who have been deprived of their offices, and also, I regret to say, pillaged of their money and goods, belonged to the old official class, and hold a considerable position; and their downfall is attributed chiefly to their disapproval, perhaps too openly expressed, of the new mode of life adopted by the Sultan, and which is encouraged by the Minister of War. The latter is a man of no family, and was only Treasurer in the Household of the late Grand Vizier. He is considered by the official classes as an upstart, and his rapid elevation, and the advantage



he is taking of it to set aside those who were formerly his superiors, has created widespread discontent.

I understand that many reports are circulating throughout the country as to the frivolous and dissipated life which is being led in the highest circles at the Court, and though many of these reports are, I am sure, greatly exaggerated, still the fact remains that the public is beginning to believe that the Sultan and his immediate surroundings are entirely preoccupied with amusements, and are allowing the Government business to be quite neglected. This is a most unfortunate impression to exist at the present juncture, and I sincerely trust that the Sultan will ere long show his people that his character has been misunderstood, and that he intends to govern firmly and justly. Otherwise, I fear, the dangers which are threatening Morocco from outside, combined with the internal discontent, may produce a crisis which will be exceedingly dangerous to the stability of the Sultan's throne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 146.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 25.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 25, 1901.

MOORISH Mission.

The composition of the Mission has been altered by the Sultan. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will go to Paris and St. Petersburgh, while the Minister of War is to go to London and Berlin. The Mission will still be at Mazagan by the end of the month, and will not be delayed by this arrangement. The alteration is, I think, advantageous. I should be in London by the 31st instant; I am crossing to Gibraltar to-day.

---

No. 147.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 27.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 27, 1901.

SIR A. NICOLSON'S telegram No. 19 of the 20th instant.

Yesterday one of the French cruisers returned here bearing a letter from the Sultan in which all the French demands are accepted in principle; the vessel again left for Mazagan last night. I am informed that the French Minister expects that the details still under discussion will be settled speedily.

---

No. 148.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May* 31.)

(No. 204.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 30, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch, which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson, Military Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy, reporting a French opinion on the recent operations in South Algeria.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

---

Inclosure in No. 148.

*Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Dawson to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 36.)

Sir, *Paris, May* 29, 1901.

AN anonymous correspondent of the "France Militaire" sums up so concisely the situation in Southern Algeria, as affected by the recent operations, that I cannot help quoting from his article, which he entitles "Le Terminus de l'Occupation."

He announces that the occupation of the Saharien oases is now a *fait accompli*, and the French forces are now posted between Timmimoum in the Gourara, Adrar in the Touat, Aoulef, In-Rhar, and In-Salah in the Tidikelt.

The advance into the Touat and the installation of the annexe of Adrar, which were the objects of the operations at the commencement of this year, would have been effected quite peaceably had it not been for the Berabers, who, seeing their prey about to escape them, intervened to oppose the French.

It was solely interest which threw the Berabers across the road of the French. Gourara, and especially Touat, were in their eyes regions taxable and workable at their master's discretion, which they terrorized, and where they robbed the crops at harvest time. The arrival of the French, therefore, threatened to dry up an easy source of revenue; no wonder then they sought to harass the French columns by throwing themselves across their line of retreat.

Misfortune overtook them; after a severe handling at Timmimoum and Charouin they were driven to a disastrous retreat, which gave time for reflection.

Even if it is necessary later to repel small efforts from the direction of Tafilelt, it can be safely stated that the occupation operations are definitely closed, and the French have attained their "point terminus" in Algeria.

It was necessary to seize the Saharien oases as strategic points whence to advance French influence over the Mussulman world from north to south and east. Besides, brigandage could not be allowed to continue to hold sway over these districts; while, finally, it was time to proclaim to the Sultan of Morocco French rights over this hinterland of Algeria.

The seizure of these oases had been the hobby of successive Governors of Algeria hence the establishment of the posts of Macmahon, Miribel, and Hassi-Inifel, as "têtes d'étape," insuring the debouchment of French troops either in Gourara or Tidikelt; hence also the rôle of the "stations magasins" of 1900–1901. These latter will now be reduced to simple posts; if, as is likely, regular communication between South Oran and Touat by the Ouad Saoura, and between Constantine and Tidikelt by Biskra and Ouargla, is established.

The writer argues that these posts should constitute the French military boundaries, held by small bodies of native troops, educated for defensive warfare with the Beraber and Targui tribes.

The Foureau-Lamy Mission has proved the folly that it would be to try to connect effectively Algeria with the Soudan.

Any further expeditions southwards are now out of the question, and the policy of the future should be, if possible, to utilize the Touaregs in order to establish periodical relations with Timbuctoo. This tribe having already undertaken to sell sheep and provide camels, such a policy should not be impossible.

These considerations, concludes the correspondent, should console those who regret the sums spent on these expeditions hitherto, but will not justify the idea of any further expenditure in this direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON,
*Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

---

No. 149.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 31, 1901.

MY telegram No. 23: murder of M. Pouzet.

The German Minister informs me that he learns from the French Minister that all has been settled to his satisfaction and that he is now merely awaiting the arrival



at Tangier of the Ambassador, who is going to Paris in order that effect may be given to the promises made, and the matter will then be concluded.

To-day both the French cruisers returned from Mazagan. The French Dragoman has not yet returned from the Court, and one of the cruisers will go to Mazagan to fetch him.

---

No. 150.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 76.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 25, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, has addressed a Circular letter to the foreign Representatives, informing them that he has received orders from the Sultan to proceed to the Shereefian Court, leaving his son Sid Hadj Hamed in charge of his post at Tangier.

Sid Torres, who starts to-morrow on his journey, which must be a trying one for a man of his years, informs me that he has received no hint as to the reason for his being summoned to the Court. The fact, however, that he has been ordered to leave his son to act for him appears to show that he has not incurred the Sultan's displeasure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 151.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 26, 1901.

I HAVE had a conversation with an intelligent Moor who has just arrived from Tafilelt and has also recently visited Figuig. He states that he arrived in Tafilelt in the month of February and learnt on arrival that a party of 650 men of the Beni Mohammed and Ait Khabbash—the former an Arab and the latter a Berber faction of the Ait Atta tribe—had left some little time before for Tuat under Kaid Mohammed, who had come to Tafilelt to enlist men to fight the French. Kaid Mohammed is one of the Tuat Governors appointed by the Sultan, but was clearly acting against orders, as both the Governor of Tafilelt and Moulai Rashid had, under instructions from the Court, forbidden the Tafilelt people to attack the French.

Kaid Mohammed conducted his little force, who were partly on foot and partly mounted on camels and horses, and who were armed with repeating and other rifles of various patterns, to his Kasbah near Timmimoum. The attack was made in the night, a party of twenty-five scaling the walls of the French fort with the intention of killing the garrison with their swords and daggers; the alarm was, however, given and the twenty-five men inside were all killed, and the attacking party put to flight. Kaid Mohammed retired to his kasbah, and the the Ait Atta people fled to Charouin, where, however, they were refused admittance by the people; they then made for Tulamin but were overtaken by the French force and in the ensuing fight there were many losses on both sides, especially amongst the Algerian auxiliaries of the French. The survivors of the Ait Atta were then permitted to return unmolested to Tafilelt, where they arrived at the end of March, having lost altogether 135 men killed. They brought with them some rifles, cartridges, &c., taken from the French, of which the Kaid of Tafilelt prohibited the sale in his district.

Soon after this my informant went to Figuig. He found Bou Amama at Hamam-el-Fokani. The French had built forts at Dermel, Zoubia, and Jenan-ed-Der (Beni Ounif). Their post at Zoubia is within sight of Hamam-el-Fokani, from which it is 8 to 10 miles distant. The railway has been carried as far as Zoubia, but at the time he was there they were not working at its extension. He heard that the French had also built forts at Taghit in Beni Goumi and at Igli. They had made an expedition to Kenadsa, but had returned to Beni Goumi without building, though they talked of building a fort at Nibika, near Kenadsa.

My informant states that half the Oulad Jerir tribe together with their Kaid have made their submission to the French, but that those who inhabit the mountainous

district are hostile to them. The Doui Menia are also divided, a portion of them being favourable to the French. Bou Amama he described as neutral. He is said to have informed the French that if they do not enter Figuig proper he will not interfere with them. He is, however, waiting to see the turn of events, and my informant declares that if the French advance on Tafilelt, the whole of the powerful Ait Atta and Ait Yafilman tribes will rise against them, and in that case they would be joined by Bou Amama and his followers, including even the Hamian and other Algerian tribes, at present fighting with the French.

After spending fifteen days at Figuig my informant returned to Tafilelt and shortly after the Shereef Mustafa-ben-Abderahman arrived with letters from the Sultan inviting the Ait Atta and Ait Yafilman to come to Marakesh to confer regarding the French advance. They, however, refused to go, adding that if the French advance they will attack them.

My informant is of opinion that if the French make no fresh advance in the direction of Tafilelt there will be no serious fighting, though there may be raids similar to that on Timmimoum, but if they advance there will be a general rising, all the tribesmen being armed with rifles and ready to fight, being much more warlike than the Tuat tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 152.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 6.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 6, 1901.

MY despatch No. 80 of the 3rd instant.

With reference to the murder of M. Pouzet in the Riff, I am informed by the French Minister that the Bocoyans have been released, and are in the charge of the Commander of the Sultan's forces, who is to hand them over to the French. The implicated Governor and Lieutenant-Governor have been arrested.

Sid Torres arrived here to-day with Sid Abdelkerrim-ben-Sliman, and the French Minister hopes to be able shortly to bring about a complete settlement of various affairs with the latter, after which he will leave for Paris.

No reply about proposed Moorish Mission to Paris will be given until a final settlement has been reached, and the French cruisers will remain here till then.

---

No. 153.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 7.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 30, 1901.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 23 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to report that a Moorish Colonel, accompanied by several other officers, who arrived from Court on the 27th instant with Shereefian letters, left yesterday for Melilla, whence they were to proceed to the Commander of the Sultan's troops in the Riff. I have been unable to learn the true purport of the instructions they carry to the Commander, the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs merely stating that he believes they are for the holding an inquiry into the circumstances attending the shooting of M. Pouzet. It is probable, however, that they have secret instructions to effect the arrest of the inculpated Governor, as demanded by the French.

Nothing further has transpired as to the state of the negotiations between the French Legation and the Moorish Government, except that, from an observation let drop by the French Minister at a meeting of the foreign Representatives this morning, it appears that he expects to arrange the final settlement of the matter with the Moorish official designated as Ambassador for Paris, who should arrive here at any moment, though he has not yet been informed who has been selected for that post.

The reply of the Moorish Government brought by the French cruiser on the 26th instant was satisfactory in the opinion of the French Minister in so far as it acceded to his demands in principle; but there remained matters of detail to be settled and the promised redress to be given effect to.

The French cruisers have not yet returned to Tangier; they have been visiting the



various ports and giving rise to much excitement and uneasiness amongst the natives by their evolutions in front of the coast towns, even at those where they did not communicate with the shore but steamed about apparently taking soundings. At Mazagan they carried out target practice in the bay at night by searchlight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 154.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 7.)

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 30, 1901.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 63 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that at a meeting of the foreign Representatives this morning the French and Russian Ministers both stated that they had received letters from the Court informing them that the Sultan desired to send a Special Envoy to Paris and St. Petersburgh, without, however, mentioning whom it was proposed to send in that capacity.

They had neither of them yet replied to that communication, and no time could be fixed for the departure of the Mission.

The French Minister added that the Envoy that might be selected to visit Paris would first have to settle pending questions with him at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 155.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 7.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 7, 1901.

MY immediately preceding telegram: murder of M. Pouzet.

Moorish cruisers, accompanied by one of the French cruisers, has just left in order to bring back the released captives as well as prisoners from the Riff.

---

No. 156.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 3, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No 78 of the 30th ultimo, I learn from the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs that the Moorish officials sent to the Commander of the Sultan's forces in the Riff have orders to effect the arrest of the Governor of Kebdana implicated in the shooting of the Frenchman M. Pouzet, and also of the Lieutenant-Governor. Sid Torres tells me, however, that these officials are to be kept under arrest in the Riff and are not to be brought to Tangier.

The French Minister stated to his Spanish colleague that he is quite satisfied with the replies he received from the Court, that not only is the Pouzet affair satisfactorily arranged, but that other questions also, some of which had been long under discussion, have now been settled to his satisfaction, as he had utilized the presence of the cruisers to press for their settlement, and had been successful beyond his expectations.

M. Révoil stated positively that he had not touched upon recent events in the south, or in any way upon the frontier question, and that the reports to the contrary that had appeared in French and other newspapers were devoid of all foundation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 157.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 10, 1901.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram :

Yesterday evening the French and Moorish cruisers returned with the released Riffians and the Governor as prisoners.

To-morrow morning the cruisers start for Toulon with M. Révoil and Ben Sliman, who goes to Paris as Ambassador.

---

No. 158.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, June* 11, 1901.

*Mr. Norman,*—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government has consented to any extension of French influence in Morocco.

*Answer.*

The answer is in the negative.

---

No. 159.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, June* 11, 1901.

*Mr. Lambert,*—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any communication has been received with respect to the assumption of a French Protectorate over Morocco ; if so, whether the Government have acquiesced, or intend to acquiesce, in such a Protectorate.

*Answer.*

No such communication has been received.

---

No. 160.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 15.)

(No. 226. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, June* 14, 1901.

I TOLD M. Delcassé the day before yesterday that I was very glad to see that the difference between France and Morocco had been settled without any further trouble, and that the Special Mission sent by the Sultan was already on its way to this country.

M. Delcassé observed that M. Revoil had been very successful in obtaining reparation for France. As for the Special Mission, he did not know when it would arrive in Paris, and M. Revoil would probably reach the capital before the Sultan's Representatives.

From what is published in the Havas telegram this would certainly appear to be the case, as M. Revoil is expected in Paris to-night, while the Special Envoys are not to leave Toulon for Marseilles until to-morrow, and will make their way to Paris leisurely, stopping at Lyons on the way.

The Mission is stated to be composed as follows :—

Si Abdulkerim-ben-Sliman, First Ambassador.
Si Bennauer Ghennan, Second Ambassador.
Si Mehammed El Guebbas, Councillor of Embassy.
El Kaab, Interpreter.
Si Kaddour-ben-Ghabrit, Cadi unattached.



Besides these there are four Caïds, some superior officers, six attachés, and twelve domestics.

It is telegraphed this afternoon from Marseilles that M. Revoil, who, as your Lordship is aware, has ceased to be French Minister at Tangiers in consequence of his appointment to be Governor-General of Algeria, has stated that he will not be able to proceed to his new post for several weeks, as the whole of his time will be taken up by the negotiations which will be pursued at Paris with the Moroccan Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

No. 161.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 45.)
My Lord, *Madrid, June* 2, 1901.

I HAD a short interview two days ago with the Foreign Minister, and he asked me whether I had any fresh information about Morocco.

I said I had no information of importance, and he then said that he had been making very careful inquiries, and felt convinced there was no cause for immediate anxiety. He did not believe that the French had any intention of unchaining a tempest by encroachments which would force the Sultan into a corner and necessitate interference on the part of European Powers; nor did he believe the border tribes were so much excited as to be really out of hand.

The Duke of Almodóvar expressed interest in the doings of the Morocco Mission to England, and said that it had doubtless been instructed to deal with the political situation. I said I did not know what instructions had been given to the Mission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

---

No. 162.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 5, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting an attack made by a nephew of Bu Amama on two tribes east of Fez.

Though the occurrence was not in itself of much importance, Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod considers it significant of the growing influence of Bu Amama in districts which are comparatively near to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 162.

*Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.*

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Fez, May* 30, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to state that two days ago an alarming rumour became current here that Bu Amama had, with a party of Algerians (Hamian, Shijah, and Ghuât people), attacked and defeated the Beni Gil, and thereafter the Ulad-al-Hadj, the latter losing about 300 in killed and wounded, and that he was now encamped in Huava, near Kasbah-al-Alsun.

On making inquiries, I find, however, that facts are substantially as follows :—

Last year Sidi Allal, Bu Amama's nephew, who lives at Ras-al-Ain, Beni Matav, sent a number of his people to buy grain at Huava. On their way back some of those people were despoiled of part of that grain by Ulad-al-Hadj and Beni Gil tribes, and some of them were killed and wounded.

Satisfaction for all this being refused, Sidi Allal stopped, as far as he could, all traffic between Wad Muluya and the frontier, particularly that in cattle.

The affair is said to be now quite settled, the Huava people having sacrificed men at Sidi Allal's camp, and given him all the satisfaction required.

It would seem to have been a purely intertribal affair from beginning to end, and so in itself unimportant. But it appears to me to afford a striking proof of the impotency of the Moorish Government in that region, and at the same time a highly significant illustration of the growing influence there of Bu Amuma and his kindred.

It would seem in effect that these subjects, or allies, of the French aspire to rule all the tract from the frontier to Kasbah-al-Msun—that is to say, to within 80 miles of Fez itself.

I would refer to my despatch of the 3rd ultimo to His Majesty's Minister (copy inclosed in Sir A. Nicolson's No. 45 of the 11th April), regarding French movements in that region.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

No. 163.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 6. 1901.

I TOOK an opportunity this afternoon of inquiring of the French Minister whether anything has yet been decided as to the proposed Moorish Mission to Paris.

M. Révoil replied that he had received a letter from the Moorish Government informing him that the Sultan desired to send a special Envoy to Paris, but making no mention of the person selected for that post. He had also been informed that Sid Abdelkerim-ben-Sliman had received instructions to effect a settlement of various questions which had been long pending, and he was pleased that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been sent to Tangier for this purpose instead of the Minister of War, who had not the same experience. He considered it fortunate, in view of his appointment as Governor-General of Algeria, that he should have an opportunity of meeting the Moorish Foreign Minister and discussing matters with him, and, he added, with some emphasis, of making him clearly understand his views as to the frontier question.

I thereupon inquired whether the frontier question was to be discussed between them, observing that it would be very satisfactory if a definite settlement could be arrived at.

M. Révoil replied that as Sid-ben-Sliman was to negotiate the settlement of various questions it was not improbable that he might also touch on the frontier question.

With regard to the proposed Mission to Paris, M. Révoil said he had as yet received no instructions from his Government as to the reply he should give; but it was natural that they should not consent to receive a Mission until he could report that he had settled all pending questions with Sid Abdelkerim-ben-Sliman. He expected, however, that a settlement would speedily be arrived at, and that he would shortly be able to proceed to Paris preparatory to taking up his post in Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 164.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 11, 1901.

THE French cruiser "Du Chayla," accompanied by the Moorish cruiser "El Bashir," returned from the Riff on the evening of the 9th instant, the former having on board the Bocoyans, who had accompanied M. Pouzet, and had been captured by the Governor of Kebdana. The offending Governor was himself



conveyed as a prisoner on the "Bashir," and has been lodged in a room at the Treasury here.

The fine of 100,000 fr. for the murder of M. Pouzet has already been paid, and the Moorish Ambassador will, I understand, convey suitable expressions of regret to Paris. This incident is thus completely closed to the satisfaction of the French Government.

All the other minor matters for the settlement of which M. Révoil was pressing, have also, as I am informed, been disposed of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 165.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 11, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that the French cruisers "Pothuau" and "Du Chayla" left this morning for Toulon, the former having on board M. Révoil and Sid Abdelkerim-ben-Sliman, who is proceeding to Paris as Moorish Ambassador.

The Ambassador's suite consists of Sid Benasser Ghannam, Sid Mahommed Gebbas, Sid Mahommed-bel-Kaal, French interpreter; the Amin-ben-Shaèron, and several Kaids of Makhaznia.

I am informed by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that the arrangements for the Mission to St. Petersburgh are not yet completed, but it is probable that Sid Abdelkerim-ben-Sliman will be the Ambassador.

I understand that the final arrangements will be made through the Russian Ambassador at Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 166.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 11, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 77 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that he learns from native sources that the French are pushing on the works on the extension of the railway from Zubia to Jenan-ed-Dar (Beni Ounif). He was informed that the French Chef d'Administration at Zubia had met Bou Amama at Faidh Attia and had expressed the wish to erect buildings at Melias (between Figuig and Jenan-ed-Dar) but that Bou Omama had objected and warned them that resistance would be offered. Since then further French reinforcements had arrived and it was expected that they would establish a post at El Arja, north of Figuig.

Mr. Macleod was also informed that the French officials had sent for the Shereef of Kenadza to Beni Gumi and had notified him that he was under their jurisdiction, and that he and his people must allow the French to establish themselves in their district or suffer the consequences.

Reports had also reached Fez that a party of Ait-Iz-dig Berbers had plundered a caravan of Doui Menia who were conveying grain to the French at Igli.

These reports are all from native sources, and must therefore be received with some caution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 167.

*Memorandum by Sir A. Nicolson.*

I INCLOSE a document signed by the Moorish Ambassador, with a translation, embodying the results of conversations held with him.

I may mention that orders have already been sent to the Governors of districts to commence the roads and repairs of bridges. Also orders have been sent to the Governors of all prisons that each prisoner is to receive two loaves of bread and 1 real (about 2*d.*) daily.

I have asked that orders be sent to the Customs at each port to carry at once into effect the concessions as regards the coasting trade and the export of certain vegetables. The duty on oranges is about 6½ per cent. *ad valorem*, and this duty will be levied on potatoes and tomatoes.

I would summarize the results of the Mission as follows:—

Coastwise trade granted.
Export of potatoes and tomatoes granted.
Improvement of ports granted, *i.e.*, increased warehouse accommodation and extra lighters and steam-launches.
Telegraph line down the coast from Tangier to Mogador granted. Material, &c., to be obtained from Germany.
Construction and repairs of roads and bridges granted and orders already given.
Improvement of prisons accepted, and certain orders already given.

The following have been ordered, or are about to be ordered, in England, apart from private purchasers:—

4,000 Lee-Metford rifles.
Two steam-launches and a tug.
Electric-lighting plant for Sultan's and Vizier's palaces and their offices.
Irrigation machinery and plant.
Agricultural machines.

The following Englishmen have been engaged or are about to be engaged:—

An electrical engineer.
Irrigation engineer and his assistant.
General engineer.
Three military instructors.
A builder.
Two gardiners.
Bandsman.
Furniture man.
Carpenter.
Tailor.
Bicycle man.
Photographer.
Or sixteen in all.

The Ambassador would like me, on the other hand, to give him a paper to the following effect:—

*Draft of Proposed Assurances.*[*]

"The British Legation engages that the provisions of Article XII of the Madrid Convention relative to the payment of the Agrarian Tax by British subjects and by British-protected persons be carried into effect so soon as an understanding is arrived at between the Moorish Government and the several Legations as to its mode of payment and collection."

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

*June* 25, 1901.

[*] Signed by Sir A. Nicolson, and delivered by him to the Moorish Ambassador on the 4th July.



Inclosure in No. 167.

*Memorandum by the Moorish Ambassador.*

Praise to God Alone.

(Written the 7th Rabia I, 1319 (24th June, 1901).)

A CONVERSATION was held between us and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain in London through the Minister, Sir Arthur Nicolson, with reference to carrying out certain improvements in Morocco, and assent was given to what will be stated below:—

*Relative to improvement of Roads and erection of Bridges.*

On our return to the Shereefian Court the first opportunity will be taken to improve the roads and erect bridges, to facilitate traffic in the districts where it is feasible.

The carrying out of the aforesaid shall be according to the views of the Moorish Government, and whenever it may be necessary to employ a competent road and bridge engineer the Makhzen will provide one from wherever it wishes.

*Relative to the laying of the Telegraph Wire.*

On account of the desirability for speedy intercommunication between the portions of the Moorish Empire and the ports, the said wire will be laid between all the ports of His Shereefian Majesty.

Its laying and administration shall be under the control of the Makhzen, "God exalt it." And as it is necessary to bring the master workmen—who will do the telegraph work well—and also the necessary material for this from Europe, there is no objection to the Moorish Ambassador speaking on this subject in Berlin when he is there and obtaining German assistance.

*Relative to facilitating trade in Food-stuffs between the Ports of Morocco.*

No impediment will be placed on the shipment of the following food-stuffs from one Moorish port to another in the said Empire, so that all grain, and also vegetables, fruits, fowls, and eggs may be shipped from any Moorish port to another without paying duty.

*Relative to improvement of Custom-houses at Morocco Ports.*

The stores of the said Custom-houses will be enlarged and improvements made where necessary. This will be commenced after His Majesty is acquainted thereof. These improvements will be followed by the addition of the necessary number ot lighters at every port of Morocco.

*The Vegetables which it will be permitted to Foreign Nations to transport from the Ports of Morocco.*

It was agreed to free the shipment of potatoes, tomatoes, pumpkins, and bananas from the ports of Morocco to foreign nations after paying half a-tenth on all shipped, amounting to 5 per cent.

No. 168.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 26.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Madrid, June* 18, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that since I last wrote on the subject there has been no development here with regard to the question of Morocco. The reception of the Special Mission in England has not attracted much interest. The press continues to devote attention to the matter, and the general opinion seems to be that Spain is, as one newspaper expresses it, between the hammer and the anvil; but there is no sign of serious alarm or excitement. One thing seems clear, namely, that the Spaniards in general look with great suspicion upon the proceedings of the French, and are not at all inclined to minimize any forward movements on their part. This is not unsatisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

---

No. 169.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received June* 29.)

(No. 244. Very Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Paris, June* 27, 1901.

IT is not likely that anything will at present be allowed to transpire of the negotiations now in progress with the Moorish Special Mission; but while it is, as I have said, highly improbable that any startling stroke of policy will be attempted immediately, I cannot but think that advantage will be taken of the present opportunity to prepare for the acquisition of such increased influence, moral and material, as will probably facilitate, under the guise perhaps of a Protectorate, the absorption of the north-west corner of Africa into the immense possessions of France in that Continent.

---

No. 170.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received July* 1.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 25, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 85 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, communicating reports that have reached him from native sources regarding a meeting that is said to have taken place between Bou Amama and some French officers, who stated that the French desired to occupy and erect buildings at various places considerably to the west of Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

Inclosure in No. 170.

*Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.*

Sir, *Fez, June* 20, 1901.

DURING the last few days the following reports have reached me through private native sources of events in Figuig district:—

About the 28th May a conference took place between Bou Amama and two French officers.

According to my informants, these officers had about 200 European troops in hiding, and it was arranged that, that when Bou Amama entered the tent in which the conference was to take place the soldiers would surround it, seize Bou Amama, and carry him prisoner into Algeria.



Bou Amama, however, having had secret warning of this plan, frustrated it by insisting that the conference be held on horseback in the open air.

The French stated that they wished to occupy and erect buildings at Melias, Jebel Amûr (I have not been able to identify this spot on the map, but I understand it is between Figuig and Ish), Tanezzasa, Ain Falet, Sfissifa (Sfissifa-al-Gharbiya), and Bechar, and, by their Treaty of 1845, they had a right to do so; and that these movements were necessary to secure their rule in Sahara, which they meant to "keep in such perfect peace that the jackal would play with the lamb."

Bou Amama answered that these demands could in no wise be admitted, and armed resistance would be offered if the French attempted to carry them into effect. The French asked whether such resistance would be the Sultan's order; to which Bou Amama replied that he had nothing to do with the Sultan, and his people would act quite independently. The French then rejoined that they would refer the question to their Government, and the conference then ended.

I would point out that Ain Falet lies about 60 miles west of the most westerly place yet occupied by the French.

I am told that at Figuig itself the people are all under French influence exclusively; that the Moorish Kaïd (Timo Chiradi, of Udaghir) has no following, and is himself reduced to keeping on friendly terms with the French.

The Sultan, it is alleged, has, however, just written to all the tribes in that district, warning them to be ready to resist the French, and stating that he has given them (the French) a month's time for negotiations now in course, on the conclusion of which the result will be made known to the tribes.

It is now reported that Sidi Allal (Bou Amama's nephew, who lives usually at Ras-al-Ain Beni Matar) is, in co-operation with Kaïd Abderahman-Ben-Ali Hsin-al-Gili, assembling a force to attack Huara and the Uled-el-Hadj, whose territory adjoins Huara.

The whole of these reports would appear to give ground for suspicion that Bou Amama and the French have again fallen out, and that some sort of understanding has been arrived at between him and the Sultan. He has always avoided putting himself personally into the power of the French, and probably thinks his most prudent course to lie in keeping the Moorish districts open to him as a refuge, in the knowledge that the Sultan has not the power, even if he had the inclination, to harass, and perhaps seize him, as the French might, were he to come within their reach.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

No. 171.

*Summary of an Interview between the Marquess of Lansdowne and the Moorish Ambassador, on July* 3, 1901.

THE Moorish Ambassador was informed that it having come to Lord Lansdowne's knowledge that some disquieting messages had been conveyed to the Moorish Envoy in Paris in regard to certain commercial arrangements which it was supposed had been made in London, the French Ambassador here had been made acquainted with the nature of the few trade facilities which had been accorded, and which were of purely general interest and benefit. M. Cambon had expressed himself entirely satisfied with these explanations, and consequently any misapprehension which may have existed on the above question was removed.

The Moorish Ambassador was also told that Lord Lansdowne had mentioned to M. Cambon the anxiety which apparently prevailed in the minds of the Sultan and his Government in respect to the absence of any frontier-line between Algeria and Morocco; and that M. Cambon had explained that the French Government had no desire whatever to disturb the integrity and independence of Morocco; but that the French frontier authorities had been compelled, on certain occasions, to repel incursions by tribes from the Moorish side, and also to inflict punishment on these marauding bands.

On this the Moorish Ambassador remarked that the tribes had received great provocation from the French forces, and that they had been aroused by what he characterized as acts of violation and spoliation. He added that if a frontier-line were laid down, the Sultan would send guards and keep the tribes on the border under complete control. In existing circumstances, with no defined boundary, it was

impossible to know where, and in what manner, the Sultan's authority could be exercised. His Excellency dwelt, with some emphasis, on what he considered the arbitrary treatment his Government had received at the hands of the French, and also expressed his distrust in French assurances.

He was informed that the demarcation of a frontier-line in a remote country was not a matter to be concluded in a day, and that the assurances of the French Ambassador were very specific as to the desire of France to respect the integrity of Morocco.

The Moorish Ambassador was, further, informed that M. Cambon had alluded to the protection system in regard to which he was of opinion that the loyal and strict execution of the Madrid Convention would suffice to establish a practical and reasonable *modus vivendi*. The French Government were willing to work with His Majesty's Government in remedying the abuses and limiting the protection to what was laid down in the above Convention.

The Moorish Ambassador was also told that M. Cambon had stated that the new French Minister at Tangier was a man of calm judgment, who would be disposed to treat questions in a moderate and reasonable manner.

---

## No. 172.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 299.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 3, 1901.

I HANDED to the French Ambassador to-day a copy of the inclosed Memorandum with regard to certain commercial questions which I had lately discussed with the Moorish Ambassador.

I told his Excellency, with reference to an observation which he had made to me on the occasion of his last visit, that there was nothing in them which could be properly described as a Commercial Treaty. I was anxious that there should be no misapprehension upon this point, because I had heard that M. Révoil had told the Moorish Ambassador to Paris that any concession made to this country by the Sultan's Government would necessitate similar concessions to the French Government.

I mentioned to M. Cambon that my conversation with the Moorish Ambassador had made it clear to me that the Moorish Government were greatly perturbed by the action of the French authorities in the neighbourhood of Figuig, which they regarded as indicative of French designs upon the independence of Morocco.

M. Cambon assured me that the measures taken by the French Government were inevitable on account of the lawless conduct of the tribes. His Excellency, however, laid earnest stress on the fact that nothing was further from the intentions of the French Government than to raise serious questions in Morocco. They were well aware of the warlike character of the people, and an entanglement in that part of Africa—necessitating military operations on a large scale—was the last thing in the world they desired.

His Excellency informed me that the new French Minister was an official of the most moderate views, and might be relied upon to avoid intrigues which, his Excellency said, had been too common in the past.

M. Cambon spoke very highly of Sir Arthur Nicolson, but added that his predecessors had not all of them been so tactful and prudent.

Towards the close of our conversation we discussed the question of the foreign protection extended to certain classes in Morocco.

His Excellency expressed his opinion that the practice was greatly abused, and that all that was necessary was to observe strictly the Madrid Convention, which had been intended to prevent an undue extension of such privileges.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---



Inclosure in No. 172.

*Memorandum.*

THE Moorish Ambassador has expressed his readiness that the roads in Morocco should be placed, where feasible, in a better condition than they are at present, and also that some of the rivers should be bridged over, and the existing bridges kept in proper repair. These works he proposed to recommend to the Sultan, and suggest that they should be undertaken by native labour and capital.

2. The Moorish Ambassador has agreed, on behalf of the Sultan, to permit the coasting trade to be thrown open to all vessels. This concession will be of great and general benefit, especially with respect to grain, which will thereby be rapidly and cheaply transported from one port to another.

3. He has also agreed, on behalf of the Sultan, to allow the export of potatoes and tomatoes, on payment of a moderate export duty.

4. He has also promised, on receiving the necessary information, to improve the commercial conditions at the several ports—that is to say, by erecting new Customs store-houses where required, as well as by supplying additional lighters where such may be needed.

*June* , 1901.

---

## No. 173.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 88.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 29, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informing me that reports have reached that place to the effect that the French are making further advances in the Fignig district, and also that they have carried out the intention they are said to have expressed some months since, and have occupied Kenadsa, which, though well to the west of the Wad Saura, is on one of the routes proposed for the prolongation of the railway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

Inclosure in No. 173.

*Vice-Consul MacLeod to Mr. White.*

No. 22.)

Sir, *Fez, June* 24, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to state that, according to a report brought yesterday by natives from Fignig district, the French about a month ago occupied Bu Said, between Beni Unnif and Melias, and have begun the erection of buildings there.

It is also stated that French reconnoitring parties have appeared at Udaglier on several occasions lately, and so it is expected that the occupation of this place will shortly be effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD

P.S.—I open this to add that a report has just reached here that the French have without opposition, occupied Kenadsa, which they reconnoitred about five months ago. So far as I have been able yet to judge, this report seems authentic. Kenadsa, it will be observed, lies about 63 miles west of the Ain-Sefra-Tgli lines of communication.

The Zania of Kerzag, on the Wad Saura between Tgli and Tuat, has also been occupied without opposition, according to the same report.

J. M. MACL.

---

No. 174.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 89.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 4, 1901.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that a report, as yet, however, unconfirmed, has just reached him that the French have reconnoitred Ras-al-Ain in Beni Matar and intend shortly to occupy that place, which is of considerable importance as explained in his Memorandum, copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 45 of the 11th April last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 175.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received July* 8.)

(No. 269.)

My Lord, *Paris, July* 6, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from the "Journal Officiel," reporting a statement made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday in the Senate upon the relations between France and Morocco.

M. Delcassé dwelt on the proof recently given by France of her pacific dispositions towards Morocco. He said the French Government had warned the Government of Morocco of the necessity of restraining the border tribes. As mistress of Algeria, France was specially interested in events occurring in the adjoining State; but her vigilance only tended to insure the tranquillity and integrity of the Shereefian Empire.

I have, &c.
(For Sir E. Monson),
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

---

Inclosure in No. 175.

*Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of July* 6, 1901.

*M. le Président.*—La parole est à M. Chaumié pour adresser une question à M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, qui a accepté d'y répondre.

*M. Chaumié.*—Messieurs, une Ambassade Marocaine est en ce moment à Paris, et, pour sa réception, des crédits sont demandés au Parlement. Je prie M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de vouloir bien nous dire exactement quelle est, après les événements et les incidents de ces derniers mois, le caractère des relations de la France et du Maroc.

*M. le Président.*—La parole est à M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

*M. Delcassé* (Ministre des Affaires Étrangères).—Messieurs, l'arrivée de l'Ambassade Marocaine à Paris est une manifestation des sentiments amicaux qui doivent présider aux relations de la France et du Maroc.

De ces sentiments la France a donné, dans ces derniers temps, des preuves successives et éclatantes qui ne laissent place à aucun soupçon, qui ne permettent pas le plus léger doute.

Quand des motifs impérieux, quand la sécurité du Sud-Algérien nous ont obligés à occuper enfin notre Touat, et à y installer une série de postes pour y maintenir la paix et pour protéger contre les incursions des tribus nomades et pillardes les populations sédentaires et paisibles, nous avons dit très haut que nous entendions nous mouvoir en toute liberté en deçà de la ligne tracée par le chemin de fer que, pour l'heure, nous devons pousser à Igli avec la plus grande activité, mais que nous n'entreprendrions rien au delà.

Le monde est témoin que nous avons tenu la parole que nous nous étions donnée à nous-mêmes, et que nous nous sommes obstinés à y rester fidèles, en dépit des agressions répétées qui nous en avaient déliés.

Faut-il rappeler l'agression de Sala-Métarpha, et, plus récemment encore, l'agression de Timimoun, à plus de 200 kilom. des localités Marocaines les plus



avancées, et où trop d'officiers, trop de soldats Français, et indigènes ont trouvé la mort?

Nous pouvions, aux termes mêmes des Traités, en usant du droit de suite qui nous y est formellement reconnu, reconduire jusque chez eux les envahisseurs et les châtier. Nous nous sommes contentés de repousser leurs attaques et de leur infliger sur place une correction bien méritée. Nous avons ainsi fait, à la fois, une manifestation de notre force et d'une modération, d'une loyauté poussées jusqu'à l'extrême scrupule. Mais, en même temps, nous avons prévenu le Gouvernement Marocain de la nécessité pour lui de surveiller de plus près les tribus limitrophes, de leur prescrire le respect de nos populations et de leurs biens, et au besoin de les y contraindre.

Puis s'est produit, dans les circonstances particulièrement graves, le meurtre de nos compatriotes sur les côtes du Rif.

Le Gouvernement de la République a demandé des réparations complètes et promptes. Il les a reçues aussi complètes, et aussi promptes qu'il les avait demandées.

A nos yeux, il ne reste plus rien de cet incident. L'Ambassade Marocaine s'en aperçoit à l'accueil qui lui est fait. Elle a pu se convaincre, et elle pourra dire à son Souverain que si la France, maîtresse de l'Algérie, et, par l'Algérie, limitrophe du Maroc sur une immense étendue, est tenue de suivre ce qui s'y passe avec un intérêt singulier dont nul ne saurait équitablement méconnaître la légitimité, notre vigilance ne tend qu'à la tranquillité, à la prospérité, à l'intégrité de l'Empire Chérifien, et que nous avons répondu avec une cordiale bienveillance aux dispositions amicales dont elle nous a prodigué les assurances au nom du Sultan, et dont nous avons été heureux de prendre acte au nom de la France. (Très bien! très bien! et applaudissements sur tous les bancs.)

*M. le Président.*—L'incident est clos.

---

No. 176.

*Foreign Office to Consul Maclean.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 8, 1901.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inform you that Sir Arthur Nicolson has brought to his notice the very useful and zealous services rendered by you in connection with the Moorish Mission to congratulate the King on His Majesty's accession to the throne.

I am to express his Lordship's appreciation of the able manner in which you have fulfilled the duties intrusted to you, which, as Lord Lansdowne is aware, have been of a very arduous and responsible nature.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

No. 177.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Herbert.*

(No. 309.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 10, 1901.

THE French Ambassador asked me to-day whether I had seen M. Delcassé's speech on the subject of the relations of France with Morocco.

I said that I had read the speech carefully, and was glad to find that it agreed substantially with the statement which his Excellency had been good enough to make to me on the occasion of our last interview.

M. Cambon told me that he had communicated to his Government the substance of the Memorandum which I had handed to him, with regard to the Treaty of Commerce which we were supposed to have made with the Moorish Government. He was much obliged to me for having so promptly disposed of exaggerated rumours, which, he said, had had their origin in the English newspapers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 178.

*Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 91.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 6, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that he has received news from another independent native source confirming the report that had previously reached him that the French are about to occupy Ras-al-Ain in Beni Matar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

---

No. 179.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 15, 1901.

I TRANSMIT a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador in Paris,* enclosing the report published in the "Journal Officiel," of a statement made by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Senate with regard to the relations of France with Morocco.

You can, if you think well, bring M. Delcassé's speech, or such passages as you may think proper to select, to the notice of Cid-el-Mehedi-el-Mehehbi.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 180.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 12, 1901.

A GENTLEMAN who has had very considerable experience of this country has recently been travelling in the interior, and he has been good enough to furnish me with some impressions which he gathered during his voyage and which, I think, may be of interest to your Lordship.

He is of opinion that the prolonged stay of the Court at Morocco city has brought about a condition of affairs in North Morocco which may possibly lead to a crisis, the results of which might be disastrous to the interests of His Shereefian Majesty. My informant points out that Fez holds a very important position in Morocco, and that owing to its sanctity, its University, and its aristocracy and commerce, the city exercises a wide-spreading and predominant influence throughout Morocco. It is, therefore, he considers of paramount importance that the dynasty should secure the loyalty and good-will of the population of the northern capital; and he fears that of late these feelings towards the present Sultan have very sensibly diminished; and he even goes so far as to intimate that the possible necessity of a change of dynasty is openly discussed among the leading classes of Fez. A party appears to be forming who would wish either to select a descendant of the ancient dynasty of Idris, whose predecessors were driven from the throne in the seventeenth century by the reigning Filali line, or to give the throne to Sid Mohammed-el-Amarani, who married a sister of the Sultan and is an important member of the Shereefian family. On the other hand, at Mequinez, where, according to my informant, a similar state of discontent exists, there is a desire to replace the present Sultan by his elder brother, Muley Mohammed, who remains in detention in that town.

The causes of the discontent against the Sultan are, so my informant states, to be chiefly attributed to the reports which have been current on the mode of life recently followed by the Sultan, and which, in the eyes of the learned and religious classes, constitutes a violation of the practice and doctrine of Islam. The people would, he adds, bear with comparative patience misgovernment and oppression, if the Ruler adhered closely to the precepts of the faith of which he is the Head and chief exponent.

* No. 175.



This unpopularity of the Sultan extends to his Chief Adviser, the recent Special Ambassador to London, as this functionary being a native of the southern portion of Morocco and not of the learned or religious class, is held in light esteem by the conservative bodies in Fez, and is also considered to have encouraged the Sultan in his extravagances and addiction to trivial, and in the eyes of strict Mussulmans unlawful, amusements.

My informant was much struck by the poverty and distress which were prevalent throughout the districts in which he travelled, and which were caused by the rapacity of the provincial Governors, on whom calls for large sums of money were continually being made from the Court. These demands had to be met, and this could only be done by extorting the necessary sums from an impoverished peasantry, who were suffering from a bad harvest consequent on a severe visitation of locusts. This deplorable condition of affairs was, my informant states, aggravated by a spirit of lawlessness and disorder which was increasing and spreading, as since the death of the late Grand Vizier, the authority of the Central Government had been much weakened.

The movements of the French on the frontier had also added to the general feeling of unrest, and my informant considers that the outlook is exceedingly unpromising, unless the Sultan proceeds to his northern capital, and, by his presence, dissipates the exaggerated and unfounded reports concerning him personally, and gives proofs of his intention to lighten the burdens of his people and to govern justly and firmly.

I have given your Lordship as faithful a summary as possible of the report made to me by my informant, and he has drawn his picture in very sombre colours. It is eminently desirable that the Sultan should not indefinitely prolong his stay in the south, but I doubt if any serious movement will occur against the present dynasty. United action among the tribes towards that end is extremely improbable. At the same time, it is much to be desired that steps should be speedily taken towards improving the Administration, remedying the grave abuses which at present exist, and checking the extortion which is draining the country. I trust that the return of the Special Ambassador will lead to some amelioration, and that the realization of the measures of reform which he stated he was anxious to introduce will remove some of the grave evils which weigh so heavily on the country.

I may add that my informant found there was no animosity or fanaticism against Christians, and that, on the contrary, he noticed a very marked change for the better in that respect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 181.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 93.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 13, 1901.

THE French Chargé d'Affaires inquired of me this morning whether I was in a position to give him any information as regards the results of the recent Moorish Mission to England; and I related to him the few commercial facilities which had been accorded and the arrangements regarding the coasting trade.

M. de la Martinière remarked that he had heard that several British advisers were about to arrive at the Court to assist in carrying out certain reforms in the Administration. I assured him that he had been completely misinformed, and that there was no intention of attaching British Counsellors to the Shereefian Court. It was true that the necessity of some reforms being introduced into the government of the country had been touched upon in London, but it was understood that the Moorish Government should carry out any reforms they might consider desirable in their own manner and with the native material at their disposal. British assistance or control had not even been thought of.

M. de la Martinière replied that as to the necessity of reforms he was completely in accord with me; though he was sceptical as to the possibility of any serious improvements being introduced. He asked me if the Moorish Ambassador had alluded to the frontier question when in London. I replied that the Envoy had mentioned the anxiety of the Sultan and of his Government in regard to the absence of a frontier-line; but that he had refrained from suggesting or requesting any mediation on their behalf.

I observed that this was a question between his Government and that of the Sultan, and that it was one which naturally could only be discussed in Paris.

M. de la Martinière, whose experience as Colonial Secretary in Algeria enables him to speak with considerable knowledge, stated that, in his opinion, a demarcated frontier-line would be a cause of perpetual conflict and trouble. It would be quite impossible that the border tribes should understand that the passage of a frontier-line would be a serious matter, and it was far better in the interests of peace that affairs should remain in their present condition. Certain localities and certain tribes were mentioned in the Treaty of 1845 as appertaining to Algeria or Morocco, and this rough-and-ready distribution gave considerable latitude to the frontier authorities. On the other hand, a hard-and-fast frontier-line, which would never be respected by either the Algerian or the Moorish tribes, would lead to endless difficulties. He could assure me that the Algerian authorities and the Government at Paris had no intention of going a yard beyond the districts they had recently occupied; and that the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco was as essential a point in the programme of the French Government as it could possibly be in that of any other Power. He thought it would be wise to leave matters as they were, and though formerly the frontier military authorities were inclined to adopt a forward policy, their zeal would now be checked as the military administration in Algeria was placed under the direct control of the Governor-General. He knew that his Government would cordially support any scheme which would render Morocco a more stable and prosperous neighbour, and in the direction of reforms and of developing the trade and resources of the country his Legation would be happy to co-operate with any one animated with the same intentions.

I told M. de la Martinière that I was glad to have these assurances, and that I trusted we should see some progress made in the way of material development and of a reformed Administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 182.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 19.)*

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 13, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which has been received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul ar Fez relative to movements of Moorish troops and the possibility of the Court being transferred to Fez in September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 182.

*Vice-Consul MacLeod to Mr. White.*

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Fez, July 10, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the troops which arrived at Fez on the 5th April last have departed this morning for Marakesh.

Their Commander has gone in advance to the Court, leaving a detachment of his troops at Sefroo in charge of the Khalifa.

The authoriries say they have not received the news officially, but they understand by private information from the Court that the troops which have been for some time at Tizuit (Sus) and Tadla—and some say those at Tafilelt also, though this seems improbable—have received orders to proceed at once to join the Sultan.

Letters sent from Marakesh about the 25th June to various private persons here, state that the Sultan has issued such orders as lead to the expectation that the Court will leave that capital about the beginning of September, but its destination is not stated, though, of course, it is guessed that it will come to this neigbourhood.

There has, happily, been no striking increase of lawlessness hereabouts during the



past three months, but this most probably may be largely owing to the tribesmen being busy harvesting and threshing. So it is to be hoped that the coming of the Court hither will not be long delayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

## No. 183.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 22.)*

(No. 95.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 16, 1901.*

ONE of the most powerful Provincial Governors, Kaïd Aissa of Abda, was arrested on the 9th instant in Morocco city by order of the Sultan, and placed in close confinement. The reason for this step is not known, but the removal of Kaïd Aissa will be welcomed by the population of his province, as he was a harsh and rapacious Governor. The action of the Sultan, which appears to have been taken entirely on His Majesty's own initiative, has created a deep impression, as it has shown the public that the Sultan is a Sovereign who can take strong measures when he considers it desirable to do so.

Kaïd Aissa was a firm adherent of the late Grand Vizier, and played a considerable part on the death of the late Sultan, as he held in check many of the unruly elements who were desirous of causing disturbances. I am informed that of late the Sultan has been taking a more direct interest in the Government, and is concentrating in his own hands all branches of the Administration, limiting the functions of his Ministers to carrying out his wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 184.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 24.)*

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 24, 1901.*

I HAVE received information from the Sultan that conflicts have occurred near the Figuig district between the Moorish tribes and the French troops. The French, according to the Sultan, demanded that the tribes should submit to their authority, and attacked them on their refusing to do so.

His Majesty states that a great number of the tribesmen were killed, as also many Frenchmen.

---

## No. 185.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 336. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1901.*

THE French Ambassador informed me to-day that, on the occasion of his recent visit to Paris, M. Delcassé had authorized him to explain to me the reason for which the Moorish Embassy was spending so much time there.

The Ambassador had asked for the delimitation of the frontier, and it was found that this could only be done by a division of the tribes ("répartition des tribus"), under which some of them would pass entirely under French, and some entirely under Moorish, control.

It had proved extremely difficult to carry out such a division, and there were two tribes, the names of which his Excellency could not recall, the ownership of which it had, as yet, proved impossible to determine.

M. Delcassé was to leave Paris on the 27th instant, and feared that the negotiations would have to be continued in his absence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 186.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)*

(No. 177. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 23, 1901.*

WITH reference to the interview between your Lordship and the Moorish Ambassador on the 3rd instant, of which a summary was included in the Confidential print, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Dr. von Mühlberg, Acting Secretary of State, to-day informed me of the substance of the advice given by him to the Moorish Special Ambassador at Berlin last week.

The Moorish Ambassador was a man of very nervous disposition, nervous not only as regards the French invasions of his country, but nervous as regards the Sultan's disposition towards him on his return to Morocco, so that he was not easy to deal with.

He was told by Dr. von Mühlberg that England would shortly be free of her present entanglement in South Africa, and able to attend to Morocco. That under such circumstances France would not be very likely to attack Morocco. The Moorish Ambassador having more than once nervously alluded to Russia, was told that Russia did not care about the Morocco question, and would not support France by arms in that connection; Germany would remain neutral, and Dr. von Mühlberg had gone beyond this and impressed upon the Ambassador that Germany would not only remain neutral but retain a free hand. Under these circumstances, viz., the disentanglement of England, the indifference of Russia, and the suggestive attitude of Germany, France would in all probability not feel able to spare the 200,000 men which would be requisite to take Morocco.

The Moors were advised to occupy their frontiers with Kabyles, and slightly fortify the frontiers so far as they felt pretty sure of them. Great and constant care should be taken that these Kabyles did not attack the French on the other side.

It would be advisable that about once a year the Moorish Government should induce the other Governments to inquire at Paris how things stood on the Moorish frontier, thus testifying to their continued interest, and letting the French feel that they were being watched.

The German Embassy in London have been informed of the advice given to Morocco, and I understand will communicate it to your Lordship.

In the opinion of Dr. von Mühlberg, the proposed French railway to Fez was a purely strategical railway, of no value whatever commercially, and calculated to be fatal to Morocco.

The Moorish Embassy whilst here bought twelve cannons and a quantity of wild animals, such as deer and serpents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GOUGH.

---

No. 187.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)*

(No. 292.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 26, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 84, repeating one numbered 30 dated the 24th July, from Sir A. Nicolson, respecting the fight between French troops and some tribes subject to the Sultan of Morocco in the neighbourhood of Figuig.

No public confirmation of this report seems to have been received as yet at Paris,



where the Moorish Special Mission is still staying; and as M. Delcassé is absent I have had no opportunity of asking his Excellency whether the French Government has any official information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

No. 188.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 28.)*

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 28, 1901.*

KAID MACLEAN and Special Moorish Ambassador reached Mazagan on the 26th instant. On landing Ambassador found that no transport had been sent either for him or for Maclean, but he was received with all due honours. He received letters on arrival, but I have no information as to who sent them, stating that a new Grand Vizier and a new Minister of War had been appointed by the Sultan. Menebhi has applied for British and German protection fearing lest he should be arrested. Until they receive further news from the Court both he and Maclean will remain at Mazagan.

The above news was brought last night from Mazagan by the German interpreter who had been attached to the special Mission; he also brought me a letter to the same effect from Kaid Maclean.

As the arrival of the Ambassador was, I think, somewhat unexpected I do not attach great importance to the fact that no transport had arrived. I have received letters dated as late as the 24th instant from the English Doctor at the Court: he does not mention the disgrace of the Ambassador, although he sees the Sultan every day; formerly, however, he had mentioned that intrigues were active against him. I am taking immediate steps to ascertain further particulars, but I can hardly believe Sultan would act as reported.

Last night the German Chargé d'Affaires telegraphed for instructions to his Government, but news from Mazagan ought to reach me by next Wednesday evening, and I should like to wait till I have received it.

---

No. 189.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 28.)*

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, July 28, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to my Secret despatch No. 177, that I was sent for this morning by the Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

He informed me that Menebhi, the Moorish Ambassador who was lately in Berlin, and who is now at Mazagan, is in danger there, and his two nephews have left Marakish in flight.

It is probable that the advice given here was repeated to Gabbas, a Moor who, whilst secretly in the pay of France, came over from Paris and that this man betrayed what he had learned to the French, who have been and still are trying to induce the Sultan of Morocco to place his country under French protection. The French will do all they can to prevent the Sultan receiving the Ambassador and to destroy the latter.

The following sharp message is therefore to-day being despatched to the Sultan by the German Government.

"The value of the assurances of friendship which the Moorish Ambassador delivered to the German Emperor from the Sultan of Morocco will be estimated here by the manner in which the Sultan receives the Ambassador on his return from the Court of the Emperor."

Information is being sent to the German Embassy in London; and the German Government appear to hope that your Lordship will take measures through Kaid Maclean or otherwise to save Menebhi and cause him to be received by the Sultan.

---

No. 190.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Viscount Gough.*

(No. 162.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1901.

I HAVE repeated to you a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier relative to the return to Morocco of the Moorish Envoy, referred to in your telegram No. 47 of to-day's date.

The reports received by the German Government are regarded here with some suspicion. I have told Sir A. Nicolson, however, that, should it prove to be true that the Ambassador, who bears a high distinction conferred on the Sultan by the King, is treated with disrespect, His Majesty's Government will certainly regard the Sultan's action as a serious affront.

You may communicate this information to the German Government.

---

No. 191.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 28, 1901.

I HAVE repeated to you a telegram from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin on the subject of the return of the Moorish Envoy to Morocco, referred to in your telegram No. 31 of to-day's date. The surmises founded on the absence of preparations at Mazagan for the reception of the Ambassador, and the accounts which have reached Berlin, appear to His Majesty's Government to be evidently exaggerated, and have been received here with incredulity. The Sultan's action, however, will certainly be regarded as a serious affront by His Majesty's Government, should it prove to be the case that the Ambassador, who bears with him a high distinction conferred by the King on the Sultan, is treated with disrespect.

---

No. 192.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July* 29.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 19, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister spoke to me yesterday in regard to the difficulty in which he found himself with respect to his inability to obtain the restitution of the Spanish girl and boy who were abducted by some mountaineers from the neighbourhood of Avzila, as I reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 73 of the 19th May.

M. de Ojeda said that he had practically exhausted all the means in his power, direct and indirect, for the release of the captives, and if the efforts now being made by the Shereef of Wazzan proved unsuccessful, as he feared they would, he would be face to face with a very serious difficulty. The captives were, he believed, in some mountains near Wazzan, and he had received some reports, which he was unable to verify, that the boy had been assassinated. He hardly dared to contemplate the fate of the girl.

M. de Ojeda said he had kept the local Spanish press quiet on the matter, but he could assure me that, as soon as it became publicly known in Spain that two Spanish subjects had been abducted, possibly murdered, certainly grossly maltreated, there would be an explosion of indignation among his compatriots which might force his Government to adopt very strong measures.

I inquired of M. de Ojeda what form such measures were likely to assume. He said that he did not know, but he presumed that his Government would insist on the Sultan despatching a large force to the mountains to release the captives, or, if this were too late, to severely punish the malefactors. He was aware that this would be a severe task for the Sultan to undertake, and one which His Majesty might hesitate to adopt; and it was precisely this doubt as to the action of the Sultan and the impossibility of Spain taking any active measures herself which rendered the question so complicated. At the same time, his country would not remain passive unless something were done;



and he also intimated that, if the wild mountain tribes found they could abduct Christian women and children with impunity, the case with which he was dealing would not remain a solitary one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 193.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July* 29.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 20, 1901.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 87 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have received a despatch in cypher from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod stating that the Viceroy of Fez had confirmed the report that fighting has taken place between the French troops and Bu Amama. Mr. Macleod mentions that he had sent details in regard to this action in a letter dated the 11th instant, but, unfortunately, this letter has not reached this Legation, and I will ask for the particulars it contained to be repeated to me.

It is of some importance that Bu Amama should have taken hostile action against the French, as he has considerable influence among the border tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 194.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July* 29.)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 23, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92 of the 11th instant relative to a reported movement among the leading classes in Fez for a change of dynasty, I have the honour to transmit a Memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod on the subject, which I venture to submit to your Lordship and which, I think, probably gives an accurate description of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 194.

*Memorandum by Vice-Consul Macleod.*

THERE is no desire, much less any movement, among the notabilities of Fez in promotion of a change of dynasty.

There has been, and there is still, a good deal of criticism of the Sultan, and one certainly does hear him sometimes referred to as "a small boy who has no understanding and who only occupies himself with play," and, until quite lately, sneers at Menebhi were common enough.

But these feelings are mild compared with those of the Fez people often, indeed, usually held towards the late Grand Vizier, Ba Hamed. For instance, their present criticism of the Sultan's amusements is not anything like so bitter as the remarks they were accustomed to make about the arms factory, and the upkeep of the late Sultan's elephant.

The Idris Shereefs, of whom so much seems to be said outside Fez, are held in little account here. They have no notable man among them and have fallen generally into the effete condition of mind and body characteristic of people who have lived on alms and offerings for many generations.

So long as the Fez people retain their present peculiar characteristics, *i.e.*, their gloomy disposition, cowardice, sordidness, and total lack of chivalry, one can hardly conceive any Ruler pleasing them much, unless by freeing them from taxes and bestowing the fruits of the labours of others on them.

The worst, I think, that any Sultan has to fear from them is their apathy or even desertion if a rival should arise elsewhere and be pressing him hard.

At the same time, I think the repute of the Fez people in the country generally, their numbers, and their wealth, make their goodwill a thing the Sultan should cultivate. They are intelligent, and year by year are becoming less fanatical, and more disposed to commerce.

With education, increased facilities for trade, alleviation of sufferings, and some little public amusement to brighten their gloomy lives, they might become very good and useful people.

(Signed) J. M. MacLEOD.

---

No. 195.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 29.)*

(No. 99.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July 23, 1901.*

ALTHOUGH I have not yet received any particulars as to the hostilities which are reported to have occurred between the French frontier forces and Bu Amama, I am informed that the change in the attitude of the latter was caused by his finding that he was losing prestige among the tribes on account of his friendly disposition towards the Algerian authorities. At the same time some friction had also arisen between him and the Algerian authorities by reason of his not having been able to provide the promised number of workmen for the railway, and thereby necessitating the hire of men from distant localities at relatively very high wages; so much, indeed, as 5 fr. a-day.

These two causes appear to have created a breach in the cordial relations hitherto existing, and eventually led to open hostilities. If serious collisions have occurred they are much to be regretted, especially at the present moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 196.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 29.)*

(No. 32.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 29, 1901.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 15 and 16.

A message had already been sent to the Sultan by me; I will now forward your Lordship's with instructions only to deliver it if necessary.

I am told by the German Chargé d'Affaires that he gave the message from his Government to the Sultan's Deputy here, who forwarded it to Moorish Court directly. The opinion of the Sultan's Deputy is that the report of Menebhi's dismissal is without foundation, and was most likely circulated in the hope that he would be alarmed and injure himself with the Sultan by hasty action.

He added, moreover, that if the reported dismissal was true, that he considered that this action under the present circumstances would only be explained by the Sultan having lost his reason.

---

No. 197.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Viscount Gough.*

(No. 253. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 29, 1901.*

BARON ECKARDSTEIN spoke to me to-day at some length as to the affairs of Morocco.

He made a statement with regard to the reception of Menebhi corresponding closely with that contained in your telegram No. 47 of the 28th instant.

He informed me, in strict confidence, that the German Government had serious apprehensions with regard to French designs upon Morocco. They had heard



that Ben Sliman, the Moorish Ambassador who had visited Paris, had reported to Menebhi that the French Government was seeking to negotiate with him for the establishment of a French Protectorate over Morocco.

But this was not all. The German Government had been twice sounded upon the subject: First by a M. Hansen, a Dane by birth, but a person who is apparently employed on occasion by the French Foreign Office. M. Hansen had made inquiries at Berlin as to the attitude of the German Government in case anything should happen in Morocco.

Besides this, another person, whom Baron Eckardstein described as the Representative of a friendly Power, had made similar inquiries apparently with authority from M. Delcassé, who, he said, was quite ready to arrive at an understanding with the German Government upon the subject.

These events, coinciding as they did with the intrigue against Menebhi, which was supposed to be instigated by M. Révoil and Dr. Linares, and with the news of serious fighting in the neighbourhood of Figuig, seemed, Baron Eckardstein said, all to point in the same direction.

I told Baron Eckardstein that I could not help suspecting that these reports were, in some cases at all events, much exaggerated, and that it was difficult for me to believe, after what had been said by M. Delcassé in the French Chamber and to me by M. Cambon, that the French should be meditating any serious attack upon the independence of Morocco at the present moment.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 198.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 31.)*

(No. 33.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 31, 1901.*

I AM informed by the English doctor at Court of the appointment of a new Minister of War, but that he has been ordered by the Sultan to tell me that Menebhi will be appointed Grand Vizier when he arrived, and that he is not in disgrace.

The Sultan also said that he intended writing to me at once, to explain matters.

Menebhi left Mazagan for Morocco city early on Saturday, and expected, as he was travelling rapidly, to arrive at his destination on Monday morning at latest. I have little doubt that once he reaches the Court he will soon regain his former position, while His Majesty will see in what light the dismissal of the late Ambassador would have been viewed.

There is much in this recent crisis which is not clear and requires explanation, and I hope that this will be given in the Sultan's letter to me.

The German Chargé d'Affaires is kept informed by me.

---

No. 199.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.*

(No. 350.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 31, 1901.*

DURING our conversation to-day, the French Ambassador said a few words to me as to the rumours which had recently been circulated with regard to affairs in Morocco.

These were, his Excellency told me, gross exaggerations, and it was ridiculous to suppose that there were 90,000 French troops, or anything like that number, in the field.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 200.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 305.)
My Lord, *Paris, July* 31, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Moroccian Embassy left Paris this afternoon for St. Petersburg, after a stay of six weeks.

The semi-official "Temps" contains this evening a statement, which may, I think, be accepted as inspired, relating to the results of the stay of the Special Mission in Paris.

I inclose a copy thereof, in which your Lordships will find the assertion that a satisfactory arrangement has been made which will facilitate the pacification of the regions on the southern frontier of French possessions contiguous to Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 200.

*Extract from the "Temps" of August* 1, 1901.

L'AMBASSADE Marocaine a quitté Paris cet après-midi, à 1 h. 50, se rendant directement à Saint-Pétersbourg.

Nous croyons savoir que les pourparlers engagés avec elle ont abouti à des résultats favorables. Des dispositions ont été adoptées d'un commun accord, pour régler l'application aux confins du Sud-Ouest Algérien des principes inscrits dans le Traité de 1845 et qui président depuis lors aux relations de voisinage entre les deux pays.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, assisté du Ministre de France au Maroc, et utilisant le concours du Gouverneur-Général de l'Algérie, directement intéressé dans la question à l'étude, a réussi à établir avec l'Ambassade Marocaine, à la satisfaction des deux parties, une amicale entente, propre à hâter, pour le bien des deux pays, la pacification complète des régions avoisinant nos possessions de l'extrême-Sud.

Avant son départ, l'Ambassadeur Extraordinaire a fait remettre à M. Delcassé une somme de 2,500 fr. pour les pauvres de Paris.

---

No. 201.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 100. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 25, 1901.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 30 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to state that the Sultan has forwarded to me a letter, of which I beg leave to inclose a translation, addressed to His Majesty by the Shereefs and notable personages of the Ain Shair district.

This communication shows that the collisions referred to in the message sent me by the Sultan, and which I telegraphed to your Lordship, are identical with those reported by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, and indicates that an open breach has occurred in the relations between the French and Bu Amama.

The Sultan, I understand, is very anxious as to the consequences which may ensue; but he has only requested that I should forward to your Lordship the communication he has received; and he has not informed me whether he intends to send a reply to the letter from the Chiefs of the district, or whether he proposes to take any steps in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



Inclosure in No. 201.

*Shereefs of Ain Shair to His Majesty the Sultan.*

(Translation.)

To the Sultan Mulai Aziz and his Khalifa Mulai Arafa:

(After compliments.)

WE inform you that the French went to Bu Amama and said to him: "Make road for us to make an expedition to Ain Shair district and to that of Berhar Zania, of Kuedsa;" and Sidi Bu Amama said to him: "What has become of the pact between us and you and of the signature (*i.e.*, written engagement) with the Makhzur? If you break the pact, nothing will remain between us;" and the Frenchman said to him: "There is no pact remaining between us and you, nor with the Makhzur;" and he attacked Bu Amama and looted his camels and his sheep; and Sidi Bu Amama and his followers overtook him and fought him, and 190 of Sidi Bu Amama's men were killed, exclusive of wounded, and Christians without number. And Bu Amama left the district of Figuig for the river called Tilzizet, between Ain Shair and the Zania of Kuedsa; and the Frenchman sent an expedition without numbers to Ain Shair, and he stopped at a place called Mengoub, and sent to the people a courier, telling them: "Let your chief men come to me that I may come to an understanding with them;" and they said to him: "There is no coming to an understanding between us and you, we have only one Lord (the Sultan)." The Frenchman said to them: "I will not accept from you any such reply. If you wish to come under my protection send to me your chief men and deliver to me 200 soldiers, and if you do not wish this we will devastate your country, and take your women to be given over to the soldiers, and we will bring up your children as soldiers." And we arranged with him for twenty-seven days' delay, when the answer would be categorical.

And we inform you of this, and our sins and those of our children, great and small, will be on you at the dawn of the day of judgment, and that is our right in Islam.

*June* 27, 1901.

By order of your cousins, the Council of Sherfa, of Ain Shair, and the Assembly of Mussulmans.

---

No. 202.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 2.)

(No. 102. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 28, 1901.

THE German steamer which had conveyed the Moorish Special Mission from Bremen to Mazagan arrived last evening, and, having landed M. Lüderitz, the interpreter of the German Legation, left again for Germany.

The German Chargé d'Affaires called upon me after dinner and gave me a letter from Kaïd Sir H. Maclean and also one from Dr. Verdon. The former communication stated that the late special Ambassador had received, on landing in his country, letters warning him that the Sultan had appointed a new Minister of War, and that His Majesty had sent circular letters to all provincial Governors, announcing that Ci Fedel Gharnit had been appointed Grand Vizier. Ci-el-Mehedy Menebhi had been much disturbed at this news, and feared that as soon as the Sultan heard of his arrival at Mazagan orders would be issued for his arrest. He therefore had begged Sir H. Maclean to write to me and request British protection. I was further informed that no animals or tents were at Mazagan for the conveyance of the late Ambassador and Sir H. Maclean, and that both these gentlemen purposed to remain at the coast town until further news arrived from Morocco city.

The letter from Dr. Verdon, who is in daily communication with the Sultan, was dated the 24th instant, and, therefore, gave the very latest possible news from Morocco city; but no mention was made in it of any action against Ci-el-Mehedy Menebhi or of any change in the Government. In former letters Dr. Verdon had mentioned that intrigues were busy against the Minister of War, and that his adherents were uneasy at

his prolonged absence; but he considered, and I was of the same opinion, that with the return of his Excellency matters would be reinstated on their former footing.

The German Chargé d'Affaires told me that M. Lüderitz had reported that Ci-el-Mehedy Menebhi had been received with due honours on arrival, but that he had been much upset by the letters he had received, and had also requested M. Lüderitz to obtain for him German protection, in case violent measures were adopted against him. M. Lüderitz informed me this morning that he had also learnt at Mazagan that a brother of Ci-el-Mehedy Menebhi had taken sanctuary near Mazagan, and that another near relative had followed a similar course at Morocco city.

I asked M. Lüderitz who had sent the letters in question, and he told me that he believed they emanated from the relatives and adherents of the late Ambassador, and were not, so far as he knew, of an official character.

I do not attach importance to the absence of means of transport, as, until lately, it was understood the late Ambassador would disembark at Tangier, and his change of plans was only known at Mazagan on the 22nd instant, and, therefore, animals and tents could not possibly have reached that port from Morocco city by the 26th.

In regard to the letters, I am inclined to think that the fears of the writers led them to state as facts what are possibilities, or even probabilities. If it were the fact that the Sultan had sent circular letters to the Governors, the Governor of Mazagan would have been one of the first to receive them, and, in that case, he would hardly have given the Ambassador an official and honourable reception. Nor can I bring myself to believe that the Sultan should have selected this moment for dismissing his special envoy to the two Courts whose friendship and goodwill he was so exceedingly anxious to secure. Moreover, Dr. Verdon would, in all probability, have gathered something of what had occurred, even supposing the Sultan had carefully concealed from him the project which he was contemplating. On the other hand, it is sometimes impossible to foresee the strange vicissitudes to which all Oriental, and especially Moorish dignitaries, are exposed, and, until further particulars are ascertained, it may be wiser to suspend any definite opinion.

M. von Brünning has telegraphed to his Government for instructions. I venture to submit that information is not yet sufficiently precise for me to request any instructions from your Lordship. I had hoped when I telegraphed to your Lordship this morning to have been able to communicate with Sir H. Maclean at Mazagan by sea; but I doubt if he will have remained at that port, as I think that he will probably have, on consideration, hastened up to the Court. Further information may, therefore, be somewhat delayed; but I have sent a special courier to him, which should reach him on Friday next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 203.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 2.)*

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 2, 1901.*

MY immediately preceding telegram.

I gather from later letters from Court, just received, that Menebhi will not be appointed sole Grand Vizier, but Vizier in conjunction with Gharnit. It is difficult to give a definite opinion until I have received the letter from the Sultan, which is said to be on its way, but the arrangement will scarcely be durable.

The late Envoy, I understand, failed to keep the Sultan properly informed of how his Missions were progressing, and His Majesty was consequently displeased with him, and had also been influenced by the intrigues against his Minister.

---



No. 204.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 3.)*

(No. 308.)
My Lord, *Paris, August 2, 1901.*

I OBSERVE in the sections of telegrams forwarded to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 345 of the 31st ultimo, which I duly received yesterday, that credence appeared to have been attached at Berlin to the report of the disgrace and arrest of the Moorish Special Ambassador who had returned home from his Mission to Great Britain and Germany.

M. Delcassé being still away there was no diplomatic reception the day before yesterday; and in fact nearly all the Ambassadors and Ministers accredited here are absent from Paris, including Prince Radolin, who is in Switzerland, and who intends to remain away from his post for some time to come. I have therefore had no opportunity of picking up any information from my colleagues; and the French press characterize the recent reports of fighting on the Algerian frontier, as well as the disgrace of the Ambassador, as unfounded.

On the other hand it is asserted, as I have already reported to your Lordship, that before the Moroccan Special Embassy left Paris, a satisfactory arrangement as to the policy to be followed on the frontier had been arrived at with the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

No. 205.

*Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 5.)*

(No. 189. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, July 30, 1901.*

IN the interview which I had with Dr. von Mühlberg yesterday morning I communicated to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 162 of the 28th instant, on the subject of the treatment, on his arrival in Morocco, of the Moorish Special Ambassador to England and Germany.

Dr. von Mühlberg said that personally he was inclined to view with some suspicion the reports which had reached him of the action of the Sultan of Morocco, but he thought that the nomination of a new Grand Vizier and Minister of War could only be regarded as a slight to Germany and England.

I replied that it was very doubtful whether the reports which had reached us were correct, and that His Majesty's Representative in Morocco was inclined to disbelieve them. Sir A. Nicolson had, however, been instructed to declare that a slight to the Ambassador, who was the bearer of a high decoration to the Sultan from the King of England, would constitute a serious affront to His Majesty.

Dr. von Mühlberg expressed his satisfaction at these instructions, which were stronger than those given to the German Representative, and which he did not doubt would have the desired effect. He was not inclined to attribute too much importance to the fighting which the Sultan had reported between the French troops and the frontier tribes, but he had no doubt that the French were attempting by all the means in their power to obtain a preponderating influence in Morocco.

I was informed this morning by Dr. Rosen that information similar to that contained in Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 32 of the 29th instant, repeated to me yesterday, had reached the German Government, and that the report that the Grand Vizier and the Minister for War had been replaced was not correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

---

No. 206.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, August 6, 1901.*

*Mr. Lough*,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Moorish Ambassador lately specially accredited to this country was arrested on his return to Morocco and is now in disgrace, and whether Kaïd McLean who accompanied him feels obliged to refrain from returning to Morocco city and is remaining at Mazagan; and, if so, whether these incidents are in any way connected with the negotiations between the British Government and the Ambassador, and whether the Government propose to take any steps in the matter.

*Answer.*

According to the information so far obtained by His Majesty's Minister at Tangier the reports respecting the disgrace of the Moorish Envoy are not correct. There is no indication that his proceedings in this country have met with the Sultan's disapproval.

Kaïd Sir H. McLean, it is believed, left Mazagan for Morocco city with the Envoy on the 27th ultimo.

No. 207.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 6.)*

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 6, 1901.*

MY telegram No. 34 of the 2nd instant.

It appears from latest information received from the Court that the late Envoy, El Menebhi, is quite restored to favour, and has been appointed Chief Vizier.

No. 208.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 7.)*

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 4, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Moorish Special Embassy, having at its head Si Abd-el-Kerim ben Sliman, arrived in St. Petersburgh on the 2nd instant and was received at the Warsaw Station by M. Bacheracht, Russian Minister Resident at Tangier, M. Sementovsky, Vice-Director of the 1st Department of the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and a Secretary from the French Embassy.

Yesterday morning Count Lamsdorff received the Embassy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 209.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 7.)*

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 7, 1901.*

I BASED my telegram of yesterday on information dated the 30th July.

News from Court just received, dated the 2nd August, states that Sultan has again turned against Menebhi and that his arrest was imminent. Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, with your Lordship's message and my own, unfortunately could not have reached the Court before the 3rd instant, and he may have been too late.

The Sultan's promised communication has not yet reached me, and his present action is to me inexplicable. El Menebhi appears now to have lost hope, although previously he considered himself quite restored to power and favour.



No. 210.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 7.)*

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 7, 1901.*

MY telegrams Nos. 33 and 36 of the 31st ultimo and 7th instant.

I have just received the Sultan's promised communication dated the 25th July. It is a short note and contains no explanations, but merely states that the Sultan thought fit to remove Menebhi from the Ministry of War in order to appoint him to another post; it is signed by Gharnit.

On the 2nd instant the English doctor at the Court endeavoured to see the Sultan, stating that he had a message to convey to His Majesty from me; the Sultan, however, put off receiving him.

It seems difficult not to surmise that the Sultan has completely changed his attitude towards us and Germany, although events are changing at Court with such rapidity that it is impossible to gain a clear idea of the situation.

No. 211.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 7.)*

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 7, 1901.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 17 of to-day.

All that it was possible to do to assist El Menebhi has, I venture to think, been done. Your Lordship's views as to arrest will by now be known to the Sultan, and he should also have received the warnings from myself and others as well as the message from the German Government. If in the face of all this he has proceeded to arrest him, it would remove the question to another ground, as the step would, I submit, indicate a complete change in the Sultan's attitude towards us and Germany. The situation is not bright; but it is still, I think, possible that the Sultan may hesitate to effect the arrest.

No. 212.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August 7, 1901.*

EL MENEBHI.

His Majesty's Government have received with great surprise and concern the news contained in your telegram No. 36 of the 7th August.

You might let the Sultan know that His Majesty's Government entirely approve the message which you proposed to address to His Majesty, and of which you inclosed a Memorandum in your private letter of the 28th ultimo.

Can you suggest any further means of giving assistance to El Menebhi?

No. 213.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 9.)*

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 9, 1901.*

MY immediately preceding telegram.

I have received a letter from the Court, dated the 3rd instant, stating that El Menebhi has not yet been arrested; and the English doctor was informed by the Sultan that for the present he would be kept in power. The situation would appear to be most uncertain and confused. Kaïd Sir H. Maclean reached Morocco city the morning of the 3rd instant.

No. 214.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 103.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 31, 1901.

I RECEIVED this morning a letter from Dr. Verdon, who is the English doctor at Court, informing me that, having learnt that a new appointment had been made to the Ministry of War, and that Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi had fallen into disgrace, he proceeded to the Palace and inquired if the report were true. His Majesty said that he had appointed Abselam Zemarance to be Minister of War, but that Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi would receive a higher post on his return.

Dr. Verdon pointed out to His Majesty that in the present circumstances it would be unfortunate to make a change in the Ministry of War, as it might be taken as confirming the rumours that Cid Mehedy had fallen into disfavour, and when this was known abroad both the British and German Governments might be under the impression that His Majesty had disapproved the action of his Envoy to the Courts of London and Berlin. Dr. Verdon added that it would be well if the Sultan clearly stated what his intentions were with respect to Cid Mehedy, so that all misapprehensions might be removed; and he concluded by intimating that any slur cast on the above functionary before he had even presented himself at Court would probably be viewed very unfavourably by the British and German Governments.

The Sultan requested Dr. Verdon to inform me that Cid Mehedy was not in disgrace, and that he would be appointed Grand Vizier; and he added that he would write at once to me explaining exactly how matters stood.

I am at the same time informed by Sir H. Maclean from Mazagan that Cid Mehedy left that port at daybreak on Saturday last, and was travelling with a very small retinue, and with all possible speed, to the capital, where he hoped to arrive on Sunday evening or Monday morning, the 29th.

I think the observations of Dr. Verdon, and I venture to hope your Lordship will agree with me, were appropriate and well timed.

I fear that the Sultan had been influenced by the intrigues against his chief Counsellor, and was not disinclined to discard him. His Majesty had evidently concealed from Dr. Verdon his project of making changes in his Government, and I am not sure that the intention of appointing Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi to the post of Grand Vizier was not suddenly adopted under the impression produced by the remarks of Dr. Verdon. It would, nevertheless, be but fair to await fuller information and the explanatory communication which the Sultan intends to make to me before giving a definite opinion.

I think that Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi will regain his position, but I doubt if he will enjoy the same influence as formerly. The Sultan has, doubtless, had his mind prejudiced against him, and he has also of late taken a very active part in the government of the country. His Majesty will not only feel himself more independent, but will also be somewhat suspicious of his Vizier, and the relations will scarcely be so smooth and intimate as they were.

I trust that Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi will act with tact and judgment. If any improvements are to be made in this country, he is, to my mind, the most capable Minister for carrying them into effect, and if he succeeds in regaining the confidence of his master, there may be hopes of some progress being made.

It would, moreover, be of advantage if he were to moderate his attitude towards Morocco's powerful neighbour. He has, I fear, given some cause of offence to France, as I hear that he declined, when in Berlin, to give effect to an intimation which was conveyed to him that his passage through Paris on his return journey would be agreeable to the French Government. It would, in his own interests and in those of his country, be both imprudent and impolitic were he to allow the impression to prevail that he was hostile to and suspicious of France, and if the French authorities were to consider that he was opposed to their receiving that consideration to which the propinquity and close intercourse between Morocco and the French possessions legitimately entitled them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 215.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 104.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 31, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 100 of the 25th instant, the German Chargé d'Affaires told me that he took an opportunity of inquiring of the French Chargé d'Affaires whether he had received any information in regard to a collision between the French troops and the men of Bu Amama in the district of Ain Shair. M. de la Martinière had replied that the report was without any foundation.

The information which I have had the honour to transmit to your Lordship, coming as it did from different sources, leaves little room to doubt that the incident did occur; but if the French authorities desire to ignore the fact, it is to be hoped that no further consequences will ensue.

In connection with frontier affairs, I have been informed that Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi received a telegram, immediately before his departure from Bremen, from the Moorish Ambassador at Paris to say that the negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily. Ci Mehedy had replied that Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman should endeavour to make the best terms possible, but should arrive at some settlement of a frontier-line.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 216.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 40.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 13, 1901.

IT appears from letters, dated the 7th August, that El Menebhi has again been appointed Minister of War, but I have no information as to who is Grand Vizier or whether any one holds that post which I had formerly been informed had been conferred upon El Menebhi. For the present the latter seems to be safe, but I am not told whether the Sultan has explained reasons for his recent action against him, or how he now stands with His Majesty.

---

No. 217.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 41. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 13, 1901.

I HAVE been informed that El Menebhi is anxious for me to give him a paper in which it is stated that in consequence of his holding a high English decoration he cannot be seized, nor can his property be confiscated until he has been given a fair trial, and His Majesty's Government is satisfied that the charges brought against him have been proved. This paper, which is only to be shown should the circumstances require it, is to remain in Kaïd Sir H. Maclean's hands.

I should be grateful for your Lordship's views, but such a step would, I think, be going rather far, and might hereafter prove inconvenient. If we are unable to grant his request, as he had also received a German decoration, he would apply to Germany.

Would your Lordship wish to communicate direct with Berlin, or may I mention the matter to the German Chargé d'Affaires here, and ask him to ascertain the views of his Government?

---

No. 218.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.*

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1901.

SEE Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 41 of the 13th instant, on the subject of El Menebhi, which was repeated to you.

We have already said that we should regard it as an affront if he were treated with indignity at this moment, and I do not see that we can say more.

It would be impossible for us to give Menebhi such a document as he asks for; it would place him permanently under our protection.

Our language should, if possible, be the same as that held by the German Government; can you ascertain their views?

---

No. 219.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August* 18.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, August* 18, 1901.

AN article on the Morocco question, which all the newspapers attribute to Señor Silvela, the Conservative leader, appears in the current number of the "Lectura."

There seems little reason to doubt this authorship, and the article is in that case of some importance, for the writer insists upon the necessity of Spain having a hand in any settlement of the Morocco question, and declares that it is to France that she must look for support.

The newspapers so far have commented favourably on the article, which is attracting much attention.

---

No. 220.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August* 19.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 7, 1901.

REPORTS which I received from the Court up to the 31st ultimo were to the effect that Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi had been named sole or Grand Vizier; that Cid Fedal Gharnit had been relegated to a lower position; that those adherents of El Menebhi who had been imprisoned were released and their properties restored to them; and finally, that El Menebhi himself was perfectly satisfied and quite confident that he was fully reinstated in the confidence of His Majesty.

It was then with great surprise that I received early this morning a courier from the Court, with a letter from Dr. Verdon, dated the 2nd instant, stating that El Menebhi had sent for him during the night and informed him that the Sultan had suddenly turned against him, that he knew the order for his arrest had been given to Fedal Gharnit, and that he had been informed that if he went to mosque on the morning of the 2nd that the troops would fire on him. El Menebhi stated that he expected that the order for his arrest would be executed after prayers at the mosque on the afternoon of the 2nd.

Dr. Verdon told El Menebhi that some days ago he had received a letter from me, in reply to one from him informing me that intrigues against El Menebhi were very active, and that I had authorized him to intimate to the Sultan, if necessary, that I considered if any slur or disgrace were cast upon El Menebhi such an act would in all probability be most unfavourably viewed by the Governments of Great Britain and Germany, and that I was confident His Majesty would not wish to humiliate his Envoy immediately on his return from a Mission on which he had rendered faithful services to His Majesty. Dr. Verdon asked El Menebhi if he should communicate this message to the Sultan, and, on receiving a request to do so, he applied early on the morning of the 2nd for an audience of His Majesty in order to deliver a message from me. The Sultan, who usually sees Dr. Verdon at all hours and daily, sent back word that he would receive



him at some other time. Dr. Verdon then dispatched his courier to me, and I have since heard nothing from the Court.

Unfortunately, Sir H. Maclean was only expected to arrive at the Court on the evening of the 3rd instant, and he was in possession of the views of your Lordship as to the manner in which the arrest of El Menebhi would be regarded by His Majesty's Government, and also of a fuller communication from me than the one I had sent to Dr. Verdon when matters had not assumed the serious character which they subsequently developed. If Sir H. Maclean had been at the Court at an earlier date his personal influence and the communication of the above-mentioned messages would have been of considerable service to El Menebhi.

It is difficult to follow, and still more to understand, the continually shifting phases of what is occurring at the Court. I am afraid it looks as if the Sultan were carried about by every varying current, and, what to my mind is of more moment, he now appears to be indifferent to the impression which the arrest of El Menebhi would produce in England and Germany. Although on the 2nd instant His Majesty had not received the messages which Sir H. Maclean had in his possession, and although the message from the German Government may also not have reached him by that date, still he had been very fully warned on more than one occasion by Dr. Verdon, and indeed had expressed to that gentleman his "dismay" at doing anything which could possibly be interpreted as displeasing to either Government, and had given the most positive assurances that El Menebhi would be received with all consideration and appointed to a very high post. His Majesty further said that he would at once write to me and explain why El Menebhi had been removed from the Ministry of War. I beg leave to inclose copy of the letter in question which reached me yesterday morning. The explanations which were promised are absent from this communication, and the whole tenour of the letter is not satisfactory. El Menebhi does not receive the usual titles and names of respect customary when mention is made of him in official letters, and though the letter is written and signed by Cid Fedal Gharnit, the rival of El Menebhi, His Majesty presumably had it submitted to him before it was dispatched.

This letter, the unwillingness of the Sultan to receive Dr. Verdon though he knew he wished to deliver a communication from this Legation, and his apparent disregard of the warnings he has received, point to a disposition on the part of His Majesty to modify the friendly and intimate relations hitherto existing, and possibly mark an entirely new departure in his line of action. Further developments may, perhaps, clear up these points.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 220.

*Cid M'Fedal Gharnit to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 8 *Rabia II*, 1319 (*July* 25, 1901).

IT has been brought to the knowledge of our Lord that certain agitators have spread a report that the servant of our Lord Kaid Mehedy-el-Menebhi has been entirely dismissed from all office, either in connection with the army or otherwise, whereas the facts are different; and our Lord has ordered me to acquaint you with the truth of the matter, which is that His Majesty has thought fit to remove him from his office in connection with the army in order to appoint him to another post.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-EL-M'FEDAL-BEN-MOHAMMED GHARNIT.

---

No. 221.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August* 19.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 13, 1901.

I AM afraid that the telegrams which I have had the honour to send your Lordship from time to time in regard to the political situation at the Sultan's Court must have appeared confused and bewildering, but I have transmitted the information as it reached me, and I presume my informants were equally perplexed with the continually changing

aspect of the position of affairs, and the sudden permutations in the posts of the Government.

Sir H. Maclean had an audience of the Sultan on the 3rd instant, but the meeting appeared to have no conclusive results, as when the former inquired of His Majesty what grievances he had against his late Envoy, the Sultan said he would inform Sir H. Maclean at a subsequent audience, which was fixed for the following day. I have received no report of this audience, nor am I aware whether His Majesty explained the causes of his displeasure with Cid Menebhi.

This morning I received letters, dated the 7th instant, from Morocco city. In these I am informed that the Sultan had stated that he had been obliged to appoint a Minister of War in the absence of Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi, owing to the army having fallen into a disorganized condition; that he had no idea El Menebhi would return so soon to this country, but that as he had come back, he had reinstated him in the Ministry of War.

This somewhat belated statement of His Majesty scarcely corresponds with the tenour of the letter I received from Cid Fedal Gharnit, a copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 107 of the 7th instant. Moreover, it affords no explanation of the unusual treatment to which El Menebhi has been subjected. His Majesty begged Sir H. Maclean to assure me that "it was only the people who imagined El Menebhi had been disgraced, and that he did not consider himself called upon to inform the people of their error."

El Menebhi appears to have reappeared at the Court, and to have again taken part in the business of the Government, but in what capacity I am not distinctly informed. His fears as to his immediate arrest seem to have passed away for the moment, though he is clearly still uncertain of his position. I have no information as to the nature of the present relations between the Sultan and him, nor do I know what office Cid Fedal Gharnit is holding, although reports received by private individuals here state that he has been named Grand Vizier.

I am still awaiting fuller and more precise information as to recent events, and some explanation of the sudden changes in the disposition of the Sultan towards his late Envoy, and of the many surprises with which the past few weeks have been so replete.

The uncertainty and instability of the situation at the Court is, I hear from various sources, producing a very bad impression in the country; and I am told that some powerful Provincial Governors, who have quite recently returned from Morocco city, are stating publicly that there is no order, method, or system existing at the Court. All that has passed, and is passing, is bad augury for the immediate future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 222.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 19.)*

(No. 109. Secret.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 13, 1901.

I HAVE received a request from Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi, through Sir H. Maclean, asking if it would be possible for me to grant him an assurance in writing that, as he is the possessor of a high English decoration, the Sultan would be precluded from arresting him or confiscating his property until he had received a fair trial, and until the charges which might be brought against him had been proved to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government. It was explained to me that such a document could be intrusted to Sir H. Maclean, who would not produce it unless circumstances should render its exhibition necessary. It was also intimated to me that if I were not in a position to furnish this guarantee, Cid Mehedy-el-Menebhi would apply to the German Legation, as he was also in possession of a German decoration.

Personally, I think that the grant of such an assurance would be incurring a certain amount of responsibility which need not necessarily be assumed, and that hereafter it might be very incovenient if it were committed to writing. I hardly think His Majesty's Government should be placed in the position of deciding whether certain charges against a functionary of a foreign State were well-founded or not, especially when local conditions would render it exceedingly difficult to pass an opinion upon them. If El Menebhi be again exposed to the danger of arrest and confiscation



of property, there are other ways open to us for endeavouring to secure him a fair hearing.

I would, however, be grateful to have your Lordship's views on the subject, as very possibly I may be mistaken in my appreciation of his request. I would submit, with all respect, that it would be well to ascertain the views of the German Government, as it would be desirable that a common understanding on the application should be arrived at. I could speak to the German Chargé d'Affaires here on the matter; but I do not know if your Lordship might not prefer that the question should be discussed in Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 223.

*Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 19.)*

(No. 202. Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Homburg, August* 16, 1901.

AS regards Morocco, Dr. von Mühlberg said it was a question of far greater importance to England than to Germany. The German Government would no doubt be disagreeably impressed if the Envoy who had recently been received with honour at Berlin, should be disgraced on his return to Morocco; but he hoped that this would not be the case, and his latest information led him to believe that Menebhi had been raised to the rank of Grand Vizier.

---

No. 224.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 20.)*

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 14, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have received from Ci-el-Mehedy-el-Menebhi, informing me of the measures taken by the Moorish Government for preventing a projected attack by one of the Sahara tribes against the French frontier forces. I have not been able to ascertain the habitat of the Ait Kharbash, but presumably they are a section of the Aits Atta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 224.

*Ci-el-Mehedi Menebhi to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
After compliments,

I HAVE to inform you that news has reached the Court that the Ait Kharbash, a Sahara tribe, have rushed blindly into the suicidal undertaking of desiring to march upon the regions of the Christians there. As soon as our Lord had knowledge of this His Majesty wrote to his uncle, Moulai Rashid, at Tafilelt, and to Kaïd-el-Medany-el-Glawi to send an important expedition against them, and, when it reaches them, to attack them and shoot them, killing them all and allowing none to escape. We inform you of what has occurred in order that you may know that our Lord has acted very energetically in this matter, and that you may inform the French Minister of it in case it should come to his knowledge in a sense contrary to the facts. And we are following the advice you gave us and what you recommended us, for there should be no mistake in matters of this kind.

(Signed) EL-MEHEDI-BEN-EL-ARBI-EL-MENEBHI.

13 *Rabia ii*, 1319 (*July* 30, 1901).

---

No. 225.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 68.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, August* 16, 1901.

SINCE I last addressed your Lordship on the subject of affairs in Spain, there has been nothing of importance to record. The Court has been for some weeks at San Sebastian, and the members of the Ministry are scattered, so that little is being done.

The Duke of Almodovar, in a recent interview, spoke to me of his own accord about Morocco, and informed me that from all the information he had lately received, he felt sure the French Government had no intention of making any forward move at present. The Spanish newspapers take the same view, though with more reserve. They adhere steadily to the policy of abstention from all foreign entanglements, and urge the Government to devote itself to reorganization and the development of the national resources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

---

No. 226.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, August* 21, 1901.

THE tone of the Spanish press has undergone a complete change as regards its attitude towards Señor Silvela's article, of which I informed your Lordship in my immediately preceding telegram. The article has been subjected to somewhat severe criticism, and even the anglophobe "Imparcial" is outspoken in its disapproval.

I regret to state that the papers have now published an interview with the Minister of State in which His Excellency expressed to a correspondent his concurrence in Señor Silvela's views. He has explained his words by saying that he intended only to express approval of the course adopted by Silvela in opening the eyes of the Spaniards to the importance of the Morocco question, but the general opinion condemns His Excellency as having been somewhat indiscreet in his utterances.

---

No. 227.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 22, 1901.

A LETTER from the Court, dated the 17th instant, has just reached me. Kaïd Sir H. Maclean was told by the Sultan to inform me that he has now approved all that the late Envoy concluded when in London, and that he much regrets his action towards him; and also that orders to put into force without delay the commercial facilities agreed to have now been sent to the ports. His Majesty assures me that measures will at once be taken to improve his Government.

It appears that during the past fortnight affairs at Court have been in a critical state, but, in Maclean's opinion, the Sultan has again become friendly, and desires to retain our goodwill; and Menebhi, he expects, will soon be in full favour again.

The Sultan, I trust, will not depart from his present good intentions; it is difficult, however, to have complete confidence in his assurances after what has passed.

I should like to add that the report which appeared in the "Times" of the 17th instant, that a large sum of money had been misappropriated by Menebhi, is, according to my information, quite unfounded.

---



No. 228.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 18, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96 of the 19th ultimo, the Spanish Minister informed me yesterday that he had received instructions from his Government to address a note to the Sultan's Deputy here, stating that his Government would claim an indemnity of 20 dollars (about 3*l.*) a-day from the 12th May to the 12th August, and 1,000 dollars (about 150*l.*) a-day from that date to the 12th September, on account of the abduction of the two Spanish subjects; at the same time he was to demand the punishment of the guilty parties. If by the 12th September the girl and boy were not liberated from captivity, the Spanish Government reserved to itself the right to take further action.

I asked M. de Ojeda what course would be pursued if the two captives had been killed, or had died; and he replied that when proof was furnished of their decease or assassination he presumed his Government would formulate some further demands.

The general belief here is that the two captives have been made away with; and that it will be extremely difficult to trace and capture the real culprits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 229.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 20, 1901.

I TOOK an opportunity of inquiring of the French Minister this morning whether any settlement had been arrived at in Paris in regard to frontier affairs, as I had seen reports in the papers that some arrangements had been concluded.

M. Saint René Tallandier replied that his Government had given the Moorish Envoys clearly to understand that they could not consent to the tracing of a frontier-line, and had explained that such a fixed delimitation would be the cause of continual conflict and trouble. The Moorish Government, it was explained to the Envoys, could not possibly guarantee that they would be in a position to maintain peace and order on a frontier-line or prevent the boundary from being continually violated; and, therefore, it was a friendly and neighbourly act on the part of France to decline to accede to the wish of the Moorish Government for a fixed boundary-line.

M. Saint René Tallandier proceeded to state that a perfectly satisfactory agreement had been concluded, by which he hoped all danger of future conflict would be avoided. When I asked him if I could be made acquainted with the details of the arrangement, the French Minister was somewhat vague in his explanations. So far I could gather certain tribes, whose names he did not give me, were allocated to Moorish and Algerian jurisdiction, and those members of the several tribes who might be unwilling to accept French or Moorish rule, as the case might be, would be allowed to remove themselves and their belongings elsewhere. In reply to an inquiry how it was proposed to give such members the faculty of opting and what arrangements would be made as to their properties, the French Minister said these were matters to be settled by the chiefs of the tribes. He added measures had been agreed upon for maintaining the tranquillity of the borders, and he could generally state that the Moorish Envoys were returning thoroughly satisfied (he might even say enchanted) with the results of their Mission. They had been shown the course which the railway line would take, and had satisfied themselves that it would run clear of Moorish territory.

I asked if there had not been some question of a zone on the Moorish side of the railway line which would be under the control of French authorities, and M. Saint René Tallandier said that, naturally, precautions had to be adopted for guaranteeing the safety of the line. He concluded by stating that the fullest assurances had been given to the Moorish Mission of the loyalty and friendly disposition of France, and that they had been satisfied that there was no intention on the part of the French Govern-

ment to gradually encroach on purely Moorish territory. The arrangements had been embodied in a document and signed, and this instrument the Moorish Mission were bringing back with them for submission to the Sultan. No doubt this document would eventually be made public, but it was necessary in the first place that the Sultan should ratify it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 230.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 233.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 21, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that the members of the Special Moorish Mission to this Court left St. Petersburgh on the 17th instant for Paris, having been hospitably entertained during their visit, and given every opportunity of acquainting themselves with all objects of interest in this capital.

The French Ambassador, who seems to have taken a special interest in their visit, accompanied the Mission to the station and took leave of them there.

It is very generally admitted that the Mission had no important political object to attain by their visit to St. Petersburgh, and that it was one of pure courtesy; but it is surmised that the French Government was anxious that a Representative of the Sultan of Morocco should have this opportunity of making himself personally acquainted with the country and Government of France's powerful ally.

M. de Bacharat, the Russian Minister at Tangier, who was an old colleague of mine, accompanied the Mission to St. Petersburgh, and was good enough to call on me.

He gave me a reassuring description of the situation there, and expressed a conviction that there was no desire on the part of France or in any other quarter to disturb the existing *status quo*. He said that his own post there was not a very arduous one, as he had practically only two Polish Jews and no important Russian interests to protect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

---

No. 231.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 26, 1901.

THE arrangement as to the frontier has been explained to me, confidentially, by one of the Moorish Mission just returned from Paris. I am sending the details by bag. It practically amounts to French jurisdiction being extended as far as the River Gir; it will be submitted for approval to the Sultan.

An additional force of 2,000 men is being sent by the Sultan to the Tafilelt district to keep order there.

---

No. 232.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 78.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 111 of the 14th instant, inclosing a translation of a letter from Ci El Mehedy El Menebhi, in which he informed you of



the measures taken by the Moorish Government to prevent a projected attack by one of the Sahara tribes against the French frontier forces.

You should express commendation of Ci El Menebhi's energetic action in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 233.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 27, 1901.

THERE is a wish on the part of the Moorish Government that the telegraph line down the coast should be put up to public tender; as the French will probably manage to underbid all competitors this, I think, is to be deprecated, because as they have a cable they will obtain, in addition to the control of the coast-line, the greater portion of the transmarine traffic. Moreover, the French would obtain political as well as commercial advantages if the telegraph line as well as a cable were in their hands.

German control would have obviated above risks, and, I think, have precluded the French making the counter-demands which they would have made had we undertaken it ourselves; and it is unfortunate that the matter was not finally arranged in Berlin.

I am informing your Lordship by telegraph, as the German Chargé d'Affaires has telegraphed to his Government.

---

No. 234.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, August* 28, 1901.

I HAVE just received a verbal message from the Minister of State respecting the case of two Spanish subjects who have been kidnapped in Morocco. The facts are as follows:—

Some Moors carried off the son and daughter of a Spanish inn-keeper near Arzila and sold them to a tribe in the interior. The Spanish Minister has made most urgent representations to the Shereefian Government, but has not succeeded in securing the release of the captives.

The Minister of State is anxious, especially at the present moment, when the Morocco question is so much to the fore, to avoid proceeding to extreme measures, such as the sending of ships, but he is afraid that the Spanish Government may be compelled to adopt some such course.

Meanwhile, His Excellency wishes me to suggest to your Lordship the advisability of instructing Sir A. Nicolson to support the Spanish Minister in his representations, and even, should such a course be found necessary, to take part in a joint representation of all his colleagues at Tangier.

The German and Italian Ambassadors have already promised to communicate with their Governments in the above sense.

---

No. 235.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir M. Durand.*

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1901.

KIDNAPPING of Spanish subjects in Morocco.

With reference to your telegram No. 41 of the 28th instant, His Majesty's Government have felt much sympathy for this case which His Majesty's Minister at Tangier has reported, and they will willingly authorize him to join in representations for the purpose of obtaining the release of the captives.

---

No. 236.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1901.

WITH reference to Sir M. Durand's telegram just repeated to you relative to the kidnapping of Spanish subjects in Morocco, the case is one for which we feel great sympathy. You should give your support to any representations of the Spanish Minister, and join in any collective steps which you may consider well calculated to obtain the release of the Spanish captives.

---

No. 237.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September* 2.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 23, 1901.

I RECEIVED yesterday a letter from the Court dated the 17th instant, conveying a message from the Sultan to the following effect. His Majesty wished me to be informed that he much regretted the action which had been taken against Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi, but assured me that he was not to blame for what had occurred. His Majesty said that he had ratified all that his Envoy had agreed to while in London, and that orders had been sent to the officials at the various ports to give effect without delay to the coast trade and other commercial Concessions. His Majesty added that he intended to do all that lay in his power to improve the administration of his country, and that a meeting of his Ministers, at which Sir H. Maclean was also to be present, was convened for the 18th instant, to discuss the best mode of procedure, and also the measures which were the most urgently required.

I have replied to the Sultan that I am much gratified to learn that the measures to which his Envoy had agreed were to be put into effect, as they would be of great benefit to the country, and I was sure that His Majesty's Government would receive with pleasure the news that His Majesty intended to lose no time in introducing much-needed reforms into the administration of the country. I added that any steps which His Majesty took in that direction would be the best means of gaining the good-will and sympathy of all those who, like my Government, desired to see a prosperous and contented Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 238.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September* 2.)

(No. 115. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 23, 1901.

FROM the reports which I received yesterday from Morocco city it is clear that during the last fortnight strange and unexpected events have taken place at the Court, to which I am still unable to find an entirely satisfactory clue. The action of the Sultan towards Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi is, I am told, to be attributed chiefly to the jealousy felt by His Majesty towards his Representative on account of the honourable reception he received at London and Berlin, and also to the fear lest El Menebhi was contemplating assuming such a position at the Court as would reduce the Sultan to the inactive part which he was compelled to play during the Vizierate of Ba Hamed. El Menebhi possesses very considerable influence among the tribes in the vicinity of Morocco city; and his rivals had impressed the Sultan with the belief that El Menebhi would shrink from no measures which would assist in placing absolute power in his hands.

A little reflection would, I think, have shown the Sultan that his fears were groundless, and that his jealousy of the reception accorded to his Representative was unreasonable.

The Sultan, however, was so perturbed by the insinuations of the rivals of El Menebhi that he doubtless had been terrified into contemplating the severest



possible measures against the latter; and I am assured as a positive fact that if El Menebhi had proceeded to the Mosque on the 2nd instant he would never have returned alive.

Timely intervention prevented any catastrophe of this nature, and the Sultan appears gradually to have become conscious that El Menebhi was not the dangerous rebel which his enemies had portrayed.

At the same time, during this period of crisis the Sultan did not confine his suspicions and fears to his own Minister; his attitude to Sir H. Maclean completely changed, and he became exceedingly cold and distant in his relations towards him. His Majesty further desired to decline to receive M. Luderitz, who is to be appointed as German Consul at the Court, and he also ordered Sir H. Maclean to prevent the departure from England of several Englishmen who had been engaged in various capacities for His Majesty's service. Changes also were being daily made in the composition of the Government, and in short the period in question was one of uncertainty and confusion.

On the 16th instant matters suddenly changed. Ci Foudal Gharnit sent for Sir H. Maclean, and stated that the Government had now been definitely formed, and that he was to be Grand Vizier, Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi, Minister of War; Ci Tazee, Minister of Finance; and that others of minor importance had been appointed to various offices.

Ci Foudal said he wished to impress on Kaid Maclean that he was a true friend of Great Britain, whom he regarded as the only trustworthy friend of Morocco; that he was an earnest advocate of reforms and improvements, and that he had had nothing whatever to do with the recent movement against his colleague at the War Office.

I hardly think it necessary to repeat all the assurances made by Ci Foudal Gharnit, as his Excellency is well known as one of the most reactionary of the Moorish officials, and as an eager advocate of French interests; his word, moreover, is not to be relied upon.

Further, there is no doubt whatever that he was the promoter of all the movements against Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi. His desire for an interview with Sir H. Maclean indicates, I think, that he himself is not sure of his own position, and it is interesting merely on that account.

The following morning the Sultan himself sent for Sir H. Maclean and communicated the message which I have reported in my immediately preceding despatch.

I have not been as yet able to ascertain the cause of the sudden change in the situation, and it will be necessary to allow some little time to elapse before being able to pronounce that it is more permanent than any other of the numerous fluctuations of which the last fortnight has been so replete. I do not think thatin any case it is possible for the present Grand Vizier and Minister of War to work together harmoniously; and though Sir H. Maclean is of opinion that Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi will shortly regain the full favour of His Majesty, I doubt if, when the Court has removed to Fez, and the Minister of War finds himself surrounded by strange and unfriendly conditions, that he will be able for long to retain his master's confidence, who has shown how very easily his friendship of one day can be transformed into the distrust and suspicion of the morrow. The future of Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi, active, intelligent, and thoroughly patriotic, as I sincerely believe him to be, is not, however, the most important feature.

The most disquieting fact during these past incidents is, to my mind, the evidence that the Sultan, the only relatively permanent factor in the country, is easily swayed and influenced, not only in his personal likes or dislikes, but in his attitude towards foreign Powers. It is clear that His Majesty wished to depart from his former friendly dispositions towards Great Britain and Germany, and that although the imprudence of displeasing, by gratuitous and petty affronts, two powerful and thoroughly disinterested and sincere friends, had been clearly pointed out to him, he, nevertheless, persisted in his course. He has now expressed his regret, and given assurances of his desire to follow the advice which was tendered to him in regard to improvements and similar questions; but it is impossible not to have many misgivings for the future when so much instability and vacillation are shown to him on whom the destinies of this country very largely depend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 239.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)*

(No. 117. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 26, 1901.

CI BENASSER GHANNAM, who was the adlatus of Abdelkrim ben Sliman on the Special Mission to Paris and St. Petersburgh, called on me this morning. He informed me, confidentially, that the Mission had succeeded in arriving at an arrangement with the French Government in regard to the frontier, which, he trusted, would be accepted by the Sultan.

The railway was to run, he explained to me, along the River Susfanna (Military Intelligence Division Map, 1889) to Igli; and French posts would be placed on the crest of the Djebel Bekrav range. Between them and the Moorish posts would be a wide zone, inhabited at present by the Ouled Djevir and the Doni Menia tribes. The tribes in this zone were to be given the opportunity of opting under which jurisdiction, French or Moorish, they would desire to be placed. Those who opted for Moorish jurisdiction would not necessarily, Ci Benasser Ghannam said, be required to abandon their lands and property; the zone would be neutral, and apparently be meant to convey that a concurrent jurisdiction might be admitted. On the hither side of this zone the Moorish posts would be established, which would mean that they would be placed on the River Ghir.

I asked Ci Benasser Ghannam to whom Kenadsa would be allocated. He said that this was a point in dispute, both sides claiming it; but as a Joint Commission would proceed to the localities to settle with the tribes as to the future jurisdiction, the question of Kenadsa would be also examined on the spot. Ain Shair would, he said, remain Moorish.

If Kenadsa be, as seems possible, ceded to the French, and the Ouled Djevir and Doni Menia necessarily come under French rule, as a concurrent jurisdiction in the "neutral zone" would be quite impracticable, it is difficult to see how Figuig can remain as an isolated Moorish post. The arrangement, to my mind, practically means the advance of the French frontier to the River Ghir. Presumably from Kenadsa the frontier would be considered as running due east till it met the railway, the important and numerous tribes, the Beni Gil to the north of Kenadsa, being specially mentioned in the 1845 Treaty as belonging to Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 240.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)*

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 26, 1901.

I AM informed that a Council, composed of Ci Foudal Gharnit, Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi, three other Ministers, two Notables, who have passed some years in Egypt, and Sir H. Maclean, has drawn up a project of reforms, which has been approved of by the Sultan.

It is proposed, in the first instance, to select a few tribes, to which the new scheme should be applied, and, if it prove successful and practicable, it will then be extended throughout the country. A register will be made by an official sent by the Government of the amount and value of each individual's property, flocks, herds, and crops, and a certain percentage will be charged as Government taxes. Each individual will retain a duplicate of this register, properly stamped, which will serve as a receipt. Each holder of such receipt will have the "same rights and privileges as a European-protected person." I do not quite understand this clause; but I presume it means that he cannot be arbitrarily seized and imprisoned and his property confiscated by the provincial authorities. Each individual must supply every six months any new particulars in regard to his property inscribed in the register. Owners of house property are to pay, as a yearly Government tax, the equivalent of one month's rent.

When a Governor is appointed to a tribe, he will be furnished with a full statement of the property owned by the tribe. The Governor will receive a fixed salary, but this



salary will be increased proportionately to the increase in wealth and prosperity of the tribe which he governs. Each tribe will elect three Representatives, who, with the Governor, will examine into all complaints and disputes among the members of the tribe. No Governor will be permitted to inflict a punishment of more than three months' imprisonment. Any offence requiring a severer punishment must be referred to the Tribunals, which will be appointed by the Government.

Should the Government at any time require more money than the above taxes are able to supply, extra taxes will be imposed on each tribe in proportion to its registered wealth; but such extra taxes are in no case to exceed 10 per cent. per annum of the revenue of the tribes.

The Governors will be permitted to maintain a certain number of armed men to act as police and also to serve in the Sultan's army. The expenses for maintaining this body are to be deducted from the taxes paid by the tribe to the Government.

The main roads and rivers are to be examined by competent persons, and Estimates are to be presented for the erection of bridges where necessary. Public tenders are also to be invited for the construction of a telegraphic line down the coast from Tangier to Mogador.

The Sultan has requested Sir H. Maclean to inform me that he intends to give himself no rest until the reforms are in active working order and till he has established a strong and just administration.

It will be of interest to watch the development of these new projects, which, if honestly carried out, should prove of some benefit to the people, and serve as a preliminary to other and more comprehensive measures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON

---

No. 241.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)*

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 26, 1901.

I AM informed that the Sultan is dispatching a force of 2,000 men to the Tafilelt district to keep order among the tribes, and to restrain them from taking any hostile action against the French troops. The men are to receive good wages, and the officers in command have been given strict injunctions to keep their men well in hand, and not to permit any pillaging of the inhabitants. There were, I believe, a good many complaints on this head against the last garrison which was sent to Tafilelt from Morocco city.

I venture to think it is wise on the part of the Sultan to have a military force on the spot, as it may be doubtful how the tribes directly affected may view the arrangements recently concluded in Paris in regard to the frontier. Much, I think, will depend on the attitude of Bu Amama, who, I have always been given to understand, exercises great influence on the Doui Menia and Ouled Djerir tribes, whom, as I mentioned in my despatch No. 117, it is proposed to place practically under French jurisdiction.

The intentions of Bu Amama are an unknown quality, as his policy of late, has been continually changing, and according to the last reports he would seem to have come to an open breach with the French authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 242.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)*

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 27, 1901.

I HAVE been informed that the Sultan's Deputy here would shortly receive orders from the Shereefian Court to announce to the several foreign Legations that the Moorish Government desire to establish a telegraph line from Tangier down the coast to Mogador, and wished to receive tenders for the construction and

working of the line, which would be Moorish property and under Moorish control.

I venture to submit that this step on the part of the Moorish Government might lead to some inconvenience. It is, I think, very probable that the French applicants for the Concession would be in a position to underbid any other competitors, and that if they secured the contract they would practically have control over the land wire, and as a French cable is now laid to Oran, with rates considerably cheaper than those of the Eastern Telegraph Company, they would be able to secure a very large proportion of the transmarine traffic. Apart from commercial and pecuniary profits, the position thus obtained by the French would have certain political advantages, and might, in some eventualities, be a cause of considerable embarrassment to others.

I have asked Sir H. Maclean privately, if it be not too late, to endeavour to induce the Sultan to revert to the arrangement in regard to the telegraph line which was arrived at in London with Ci Mehedy-el-Menebhi. With all deference I would submit that the arrangement which gave to the Germans the right of constructing and working the land line, was the best in the circumstances. No political objections could be raised to it, and as there is no German cable the transmarine traffic would remain as at present. The other alternative at that time was that the line should be constructed by English enterprise; but I venture to submit that if this course had been adopted much suspicion and irritation would have been caused, and it is extremely probable that the French would have demanded an equivalent elsewhere. I do not know why the scheme fell through at Berlin, and the German Chargé d'Affaires has no information on the subject. I acquainted Mr. von Bruning with what I had learnt, and he told me that he had telegraphed thereon to his Government. I consequently also informed your Lordship by telegraph, in case the German Embassy in London should mention the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 243.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 2.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 2, 1901.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 22 of the 30th ultimo: Spanish captives.

Previous to taking any steps for obtaining satisfaction and reparation, the Spanish Minister desires to secure the assent and approval of his colleagues to them. I venture to submit, while ready to render all assistance in measures for liberation of captives, that it might form an inconvenient precedent and prove embarrassing if the Corps Diplomatique, as a whole, were required to give its sanction to punitive or other measures, and were to be consulted during each stage of the question. We might, at the same time, unofficially and individually, give the Moorish Government to understand that it would be well for them to meet any demands put forward by Spain, and that the case is a grave one.

I should be grateful to learn your Lordship's wishes, as my French colleague is reporting to his Government in the above sense.

---

No. 244.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 3, 1901.

SPANISH captives.

I agree to the suggestions contained in your telegram No. 46 of the 7th instant.

---



No. 245.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 6, 1901.

MY telegram No. 45 of the 27th August.

The orders to offer construction and working of coast telegraph to public tender have been cancelled by the Sultan, who has now issued fresh instructions to his Deputy here to ask that it should be undertaken by Germany.

---

No. 246.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 7.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 7, 1901.

MY immediately preceding telegram: coast telegraph line.

I am informed that the instructions to ask Germany to undertake construction of telegraph line have not yet reached Sultan's Deputy here; he has only received orders not to offer it to public tender.

---

No. 247.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 30, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 118 of the 26th instant, I understand that the project of reforms has been considerably enlarged, and that it is to be sent to the Sultan's Deputy here for communication to the foreign Legations. It may be as well to await this communication, as it is possible that the scheme before assuming its final shape may receive some modifications. There is one point, nevertheless, which I should wish to submit to your Lordship at present, as I think it may give rise to some objections on the part of my colleagues. It will be, I am informed, proposed on the part of the Moorish Government to request the French, German, and British Governments to nominate three officials who are to be considered as Moorish functionaries, and whose functions will be to collect the legitimate taxes from foreign subjects and foreign protected persons, and also to assist the Government in carrying out the reforms.

The "Règlement of 1881" provided that foreigners should pay the Agrarian and other taxes through their respective Consuls; and certain Regulations were drawn up for that purpose. These Regulations were found to be too complicated for practical application, and were, so far as I am aware, never put into force. It would be possible, doubtless, to frame some simpler method of collection and valuation; but I question if foreign Governments or Legations would be inclined to devolve the perception of taxation to three specially selected officials. They would prefer, I should think, to intrust such duties to their respective Consuls, as was proposed in 1881.

Further, judging I admit from a purely local standpoint, I would anticipate some demur to Delegates only from Great Britain, Germany, and France being called in to act as advisers to the Moorish Government. It is, I submit, probable that both Spain and Italy, and possibly others, would desire to also have Delegates on this advisory board.

An International Council in this country would perhaps not be a very manageable body, and there might be considerable conflict of views and aims. I should have thought it would have been wiser to have selected one or two officials from Powers who have no political or other interests at stake in Morocco, and whose appointment would have given rise to no opposition. There is no doubt that European advice and assistance are essential to the execution of any real and comprehensive reforms in Morocco, there being no capable and trustworthy native material. It would be

unfortunate if the present good intention of the Moorish Government were discouraged and frustrated, but it would have been preferable if they had commenced with a more modest project, and only undertaken at first such elementary improvements as might have been accomplished without outside assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 248.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 31, 1901.

A TRAVELLER, who has hitherto always given me very fairly trustworthy information, arrived here a day or two ago from Tafilelt and Morocco city. He makes periodical journeys to the former place, of which he is a native, and his previous visit was paid some four or five months ago. On that occasion he told me he had found the tribes of Tafilelt, both Buhr and Arab, considerably agitated by the approach of the French, and animated by the desire to attack the invaders. A meeting of the "Shorfa" (the descendants and collaterals of the Shereefian family) had been held, and it had bean decided to send a deputation to the Sultan, requesting his assistance in taking action. This deputation had returned, and had related that their reception had not been very cordial, and that the advice that His Majesty had given was to remain quiet and abstain from all hostile action. This reply had considerably disappointed and greatly discouraged the Tafilelt tribes. Those who were the more bellicose, principally the Buhrs, had left the district and wandered elsewhere, while the remainder had accepted the situation, and on the occasion of his visit my informant found the population, including the "Shorfa," peaceable and quiet, and engaged in active commercial relations with the French ports at Igli and elsewhere. He was much struck by the change, and he was of opinion that the pecuniary benefits which the population were deriving from their intercourse with the French quite reconciled them to the proximity of those whom they formerly regarded as the foreign invader.

The great tribe of the Aits Atta, who live to the west of Tafilelt, had not yet, he said, succumbed to the attractions of a wealthy and generous neighbour, but maintained an attitude of watchfulness. They stated that so long as the French did not enter their territories they would take no steps against them.

My informant further said that the Doni Menia and Ouled Djuir tribes were quite friendly to the French, and appeared to appreciate the new markets which had been opened to their produce. As to Bu Amama he did not appear to have any definite information, but he was of opinion that the two above-mentioned tribes would not raise any objection to submitting to French jurisdiction.

On his way from Morocco city to Tangier my informant found the country in a very disturbed condition. The struggle which is taking place at the Court between El Menebhi and Ci Foudal Gharnit, and the apparent apathy and weakness of the Sultan, have demoralized and disorganized the country. Intertribal feuds have broken out, and I may add that even in the vicinity of Tangier disorder is rapidly spreading. The people say there is no Sultan and no Government, and so the opportunity is being taken for wiping off old scores, and forays and pillaging are becoming frequent and pass unchecked.

I regret to hear that the Sultan has again postponed his journey to Fez, and he now states that he will not leave Morocco city till November. His presence in his northern capital is urgently needed, and what is of even more importance is that His Majesty should either himself take the Government into his own hands or appoint a Vizier with full powers. He states that he is busying himself with reforms, and that a scheme is shortly to be communicated to the Powers. This is well, but time must elapse before the reforms can be carried into effect, and still more time before their beneficial results are appreciable. In the interval measures should be taken without delay for checking the state of anarchy which undoubtedly is assuming considerable proportions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 249.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 9.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 2, 1901.

I INFORMED the Spanish Minister that I had received instructions from your Lordship to support any measures which he and my colleagues might consider likely to lead to the liberation of the Spaniards who were abducted from the neighbourhood of Arzila, and I added that my Government had expressed much sympathy in the case.

M. de Ojeda thanked me for this communication, and said that he had taken fresh steps, through a confidential and trustworthy channel, to ascertain if the captives were still alive, and in that case to endeavour to procure their liberation.

M. de Ojeda said that the question which chiefly preoccupied his Government and himself was the nature and mode of reparation to be demanded. It might, and probably would, be necessary to insist on some striking and exemplary punishment of the tribe whose members had originally abducted the captives. But he desired to recommend no step to his Government before he was in a position to report that it had been fully approved of by the Diplomatic Body, acting, of course, under instructions from their respective Governments. In short, he desired to consult with his colleagues at each successive step of the question, so that, should coercive action have eventually to be taken, the Spanish Government would be satisfied that general sanction had been accorded to it.

I told M. de Ojeda that my instructions were limited to assisting, by any means in my power, towards the liberation of the captives, and I would cordially give my co-operation to that humane end, but that in regard to the question of reparation I should have to solicit further instructions. I expressed my doubts whether it would be easy to obtain unanimity on this point, and indeed it seemed to me that individual and unofficial intimations to the Moorish Government as to the gravity of the case and the light in which such outrages were viewed in Europe would better meet the requirements of the case.

My French colleague happened to be present on the occasion of my interview with M. de Ojeda. He has received no instructions as yet from his Government, but he subsequently spoke to me as to the proposal of our Spanish colleague.

I told M. St. René Taillander that I had some hesitation in falling in with the views of M. de Ojeda. I thought it would be very embarrassing if we were to be placed in the position of obtaining the sanction of our respective Governments to each step in the development of the question, and to undertake a moral responsibility for the measures which it might be necessary to adopt. Such a course would, to my mind, create an inconvenient precedent, and in the matter of reparation for injuries received it seemed to me that the interested Government was solely concerned. For my part I should always wish to retain complete liberty of action in similar cases. M. de Ojeda, I added, had on more than one occasion explained to me that one of his principal anxieties was the impression that might be created in Spain, and the advantage which might be taken of the present incident by Spanish political parties. This seemed to me to afford an additional reason for being exceedingly cautious as to the part foreign Representatives should take in the case of reparation and satisfaction. I said that I should have to ask for instructions, and what I had expressed were merely my own personal views.

M. St. René Taillander said he agreed with me, and had himself felt some hesitation. He intended, he added, to communicate with his Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 250.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 3, 1901.

THE Customs Administrators have been changed at all the ports, and the newly-appointed functionaries have been named to their new posts without having to pay the customary money consideration. As this is a step in the right direction, I have ventured to report it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 251.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 10.)

(No. 15. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 3, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan has issued orders that the exportation of potatoes, tomatoes, pumpkins, and bananas be permitted from any port in Morocco on payment of a duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 252.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 81.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 11, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 114 of the 23rd ultimo relative to the message which had been conveyed to you from the Sultan, in which he expressed regret for the action that had been taken against Cid-el-Mehedy-el-Menebhi, and said that he had ratified all that his Envoy had agreed to when in London, and intended to do all that lay in his power to improve the administration of his country.

I approve the reply which you made to His Majesty as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 253.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 74.)

My Lord, *San Sebastian, September* 7, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a précis of Señor Silvela's article on Morocco, to which I referred in my telegrams Nos. 39 and 40 of the 18th and 21st ultimo respectively.

The effect of the article has, from our point of view, been very good indeed. The Liberal and Independent papers have denounced it freely, and the Conservative papers have tried to explain away the proposals for joint action with France. No part of the press has stood by Señor Silvela, and it has been made evident that the feeling of the country on this point is dead against him. Even the "Imparcial," uniformly hostile to England, declares that in the Morocco question France is the Power from which Spain has most to fear.

The accompanying illustration, taken from the "Correspondencia de España,"* a leading Madrid journal, shows clearly how the article has been received by the Spaniards. Señor Silvela is depicted consulting the Vicar of Zarauz, a priest who enjoys a great reputation for weather forecasts. He tells the Vicar that he is thinking

* Not printed.



of writing another article, and asks whether it is going to raise "another storm" like the article on Morocco.

The Duke of Almodovar has not spoken to me about the article, but it is generally believed that he much regretted his rather hasty commendation of it, and he apparently took measures to minimize its effect by a second communication to the press.

Some of my colleagues, who know Señor Silvela well, tell me that he is careless in such matters, and probably did not consider the question very thoroughly before writing his article, or reflect that coming from him it would be looked upon as a serious declaration of policy.

However this may be, we have, I think, no reason to regret the incident, as it has resulted in a remarkable demonstration against the policy of an understanding with France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

---

Inclosure in No. 253.

*Précis of Article by Señor Silvela in the "Lectura."*

IT has long been held by politicians of all parties that our true policy in Morocco is the preservation of the *status quo*. It is a passive policy which fits in well with our natural inclination to do nothing, and the question whether we have the power to preserve indefinitely this *status quo* appears not to have entered the minds of our Rulers.

It is therefore the clear duty of our leading men to call the attention of the nation to this question, and to prepare ourselves with a definite policy in the not unlikely event of a sudden change in the present situation.

The interests of Spain in Morocco are at least equal to those of France, on which French statesmen are continually insisting, and unless we change our present attitude of apparent unconcern, this fact will not be taken into account by foreign Powers.

The immense increase of trade and population in Germany, the unexpected strengthening of the ties which unite England to her Colonies, the new Imperialist policy of the United States are all facts which render it imperative for France to take some steps to maintain her position among the great Powers. Fully alive to this necessity she has chosen North Africa as the field in which her object may best be accomplished. From the position she has already gained in Algeria and the French Soudan, soon to be united by the Trans-Saharian Railway, she holds Morocco in her grasp; and should circumstances ever lead her to assume control of that Empire, she will possess a country four-fifths the size of France with a temperate climate and a fertile soil containing mines as rich as those of Spain, and allowing room for a freer development of population than the now vitiated and worn out mother-country.

After discussing the productive capacity of Morocco, and citing various vague statistics as to the strength of her army and the extent of her population, Señor Silvela proceeds to argue that a Protectorate would never succeed in Morocco where the people are among the most fanatical, even among Mahommedan nations. Though they are willing to submit to any oppression from their own Rulers with that fatalism which their faith inculcates, only superior force would make them accept a Christian yoke.

Though it is easy enough for bordering nations to encroach on their territory, as France has recently done at Figuig and Touat in spite of the Treaty of 1845, it would be a serious undertaking for any one nation, even France with her great advantages, to undertake, single-handed, the subjugation of Morocco, taking into account the inevitable opposition of England, Spain, Italy, and Germany. Even Algeria, where the conditions are incomparably better, requires an army of occupation of 50,000 men. This would have to be increased by 50,000 in the event of an advance on Morocco, and at least another 100,000 would be required for the actual subjugation of that Empire. All this would impose a burden which French finances, and the French army in their present state, would be scarcely capable of bearing.

In fact, it has never entered the minds of French statesmen to perform this feat alone, and till now it has been recognized by all the great Powers interested that no step of importance can be taken in regard to Morocco without first consulting Spain, and it should be the aim of Spanish statesmen to maintain this feeling.

England has no wish herself to acquire territory in Morocco, but she could never allow a great maritime Power to occupy the Moroccan ports. Italy, already

damaged by the occupation of Tunis and the creation of the military Port of Bizerta, would likewise not willingly submit to an extension of the French Littoral on the Mediterranean. France, in spite of the preponderance of her interests, would not, as already pointed out, care to take the initiative in a European war for an object in the accomplishment of which alone she would so greatly strain her resources.

Yet this even balance of opposing interests can only postpone for a while the eventual settlement of the Morocco question, and we must be ready with a settled policy to take our place in whatever international scheme may be contrived for that purpose, as we have done on former occasions. If the other Powers prefer that for various reasons the Morocco problem should continue in its present state, it is certainly not for us to bring it to a head, although, as the nearest neighbours, we are the chief losers by the continued barbarism of the Shereefian Empire, shutting off our southern provinces from all communication to the south.

This prolongation of the *status quo* is far from certain, and might, at any moment, be interrupted either by internal strife or by complications on the frontiers. We have shown that the question cannot be settled by any one Power alone, but only by International Agreement, from which it would be fatal to our interests for us to stand aloof. We must, therefore, settle on a line of policy, and it seems that nowhere shall we find stronger support or greater community of interests than in France.

It has always been French policy, founded on self-interest, to combine with Spain over the Morocco question, and granting that the occupation of Morocco would be too much for one Power to carry out unaided, what better support could they seek than ours, or what better neighbours than us could they have for Algiers and Tunis? On no point would our aims clash with theirs, either as regards the occupation of Touat, or the free communication between Algeria and Senegal, or in the prolongation of their railways by Adrar, for even if we possessed those territories we have obviously not got sufficient expansive force to make use of them. All we should require would be certain extensions round Ceuta and Melilla, and the fertile plains on the shores of the Atlantic.

It is possible that the crisis will present itself in the form of a demand by the Powers for the open door in Morocco, instead of actual acquisitions of territory. In that case, we must take care to get our fair share in the general rush for Concessions, which, among other advantages, would give an opening for emigration to a climate to which our race are peculiarly suited.

In 1859, Spain lost a great opportunity to better her position in Morocco. It is true that England definitely laid her veto on our suggested occupation of Tangier, but if we had confined our pretensions to an extension of territory either on the Mediterranean or Atlantic so as not to threaten British interests in the straits, England would hardly have risked a rupture by refusing her consent, and with France, neither at that time nor since, have we ever had any difficulty.

In 1830, when the French took possession of Algeria, the attitude of the British Cabinet had been no less menacing, but Marshal Soult stood firm and the conquest was accomplished and confirmed without active opposition on the part of England.

In these days of Parliamentary Governments it is necessary for a Ministry, in order that it may pursue a united and consistent policy, to receive the support of a strong and unmistakable public opinion. Should this opinion be lacking when the Morocco question suddenly arises, with the result that it is decided without us or against us, the same will happen as in the Cuban and Philippine questions.

---

No. 254.

*Sir M. Durand to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 79.)

My Lord, *San Sebastian, September* 9, 1901.

I COMMUNICATED to the Duke of Almodovar immediately on receipt of the message contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 16 of the 4th instant regarding the Morocco captives, and on the same day I called upon his Excellency with reference to this and other matters.

The Duke expressed much pleasure at your Lordship's reply to his request, and insisted upon the earnest desire of the Spanish Government to avoid any action which could give rise to international complications in Morocco.



I have no doubt that the Spanish Government are sincere in this desire, and it is also to their interest to get the question settled without the expense and trouble of an armed demonstration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. M. DURAND.

---

No. 255.

*Post Office to Foreign Office.*—(*Received September* 12.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *General Post Office, September* 11, 1901.

I AM directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letters of the 28th ultimo and 6th and 7th instant, inclosing copies of a Memorandum and telegrams from Sir A. Nicolson relative to the establishment of telegraphic communication between the various ports on the coast of Morocco southward of Tangier. The Postmaster-General understands that the communication is to be effected by means of a land-line, and that the main outlines of the scheme have been already settled.

If, however, any difficulty should occur in the realization of the scheme in its present form, he would suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the Eastern Telegraph Company might not be made acquainted with the situation, in order to give them an opportunity of offering to provide the desired communication by means of coast cables laid between the ports in continuation of their Gibraltar–Tangier cable.

The Marquess of Lansdowne will remember that, in a letter of the 25th April last, a copy of which was furnished to him by the Eastern Telegraph Company, the Company's superintendent at Gibraltar expressed the fear that the French Government would extend their Oran–Tangier cable westward, by laying a cable from Tangier to Senegal, touching at one or two Morocco ports; but stated that the traffic would not be of sufficient magnitude to justify the Company in laying a cable to forestall the French Government. No doubt, however, the Company would be prepared to lay a system of cables if suitable terms were offered by the Moorish Government.

The Postmaster-General is not aware whether any steps are being taken by the French Government in the direction indicated by the Company's superintendent.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. C. LAMB.

---

No. 256.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 126.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 5, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 123 of the 2nd instant, the Spanish Minister informed me this morning that he had received news from the confidential agent whom he had dispatched in search of the captives that the girl was alive and well in the hands of the "M'zara" tribe, and that he was negotiating for her ransom. In regard to the boy, the agent learnt that he was with another tribe, and that he had been compelled to adopt Islamism. This latter fact would, the agent considered, render his release an exceedingly difficult question. M. de Ojeda appeared to have good hopes of procuring the liberation of the girl.

M. de Ojeda mentioned to me that the French Minister had informed him that he had received instructions to co-operate in any step towards the liberation of the captives; but my Spanish colleague stated that he did not think that he would require any assistance in that direction, and he again reverted to the question of obtaining the advice and the approval of his colleagues in regard to the reparation to be demanded of the Moorish Government. I took the opportunity of explaining to M. de Ojeda that if he asked our advice in regard to any act of reparation, or our approval of any measure of pressure on the Moorish Government, he would, I thought, place us in an embarrassing position.

It had not been customary, for reasons which seemed to me to be natural and proper, for one Legation to seek the counsels and sanction of others in cases where it

was necessary to exercise pressure on the Moorish Government, and I feared if such a a course were followed in the present instance it might create a very inconvenient precedent. I said I should be happy on my part to intimate privately to the Moorish Government that the case was a grave one, that such outrages would be very unfavourably viewed in Europe, and that it would be wise on the part of the Moorish Government to acquiesce promptly in any requests the Spanish Government might deem it necessary to make.

Further than that, I frankly told him, I should hardly be disposed to go unless under special instructions.

M. de Ojeda did not quite admit my arguments, and said that he would perhaps be able to see more clearly what steps should be taken when he had received a reply to the note he had addressed to the Moorish Government on the 13th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 257.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 16, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 124 of the 3rd instant, in which you report that the newly-appointed Customs Administrators at the Moorish ports have been named to their posts without having to pay the customary money consideration.

I have heard with satisfaction of this first step towards an improvement of the Moorish Administration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 258.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 84.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 18, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 121 of the 30th ultimo relative to the intention of the Moorish Government to request the French, German, and British Governments to nominate three officials, who are to be considered as Moorish functionaries, and whose business it will be to collect taxes from foreign subjects and foreign-protected persons, and also to assist the Government in carrying out the reforms.

I concur with you in regarding this scheme as one of very doubtful expediency, for the reasons which you have indicated in your despatch. The Sultan would no doubt do well to employ Europeans to assist his Administration, but the proposed Board would be likely to produce embarrassing results and His Majesty's Government hope that it will not come into existence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 259.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 86.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 20, 1901.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, No. 126 of the 5th instant, reporting a conversation with the Spanish Minister with regard to the steps which are being taken for the release of the Spanish captives.

I approve the language held by you to M. Ojeda on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---



No. 260.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September* 23.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 10, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 122 of the 31st ultimo, it appears that a second deputation from the "Shorfa" of Tafilelt, and also from some of the Berber tribes, visited Morocco city quite recently to request the Sultan to give them directions as to the course they should follow; and that His Majesty had replied, with some asperity it is said, that he had already clearly stated his wishes to the previous deputation and that the people of Tafilelt were to remain tranquil and take no offensive action.

The French Minister, in alluding to this deputation in conversation with me, said that he had been informed that the deputation and the delegates of the tribes were so much discontented with the reply of the Sultan that they had left the capital with the intention of disregarding His Majesty's orders and of collecting levies for the purpose of attacking the French posts. He added that he had also learnt that a force of some 2,000 men was about to be dispatched, or had already been dispatched from Morocco city to be quartered at Tafilelt. He imagined that though the deputations were, according to his information, talking very loudly as to their warlike intentions, it was quite likely that their acts would not correspond with their words.

I told M. Saint René Taillandier that his informatioan greed generally with what I had heard, and that it was evident that the Sultan, even at some possible risk, was acting very loyally and proving his intention to preserve the peace. I understood that the principal Berber tribe, Aits Atta, did not propose to take any action unless their territories were invaded, and that the people generally of Tafilelt were engaged in peaceful trade relations with their French neighbours. The dispatch of a garrison to Tafilelt was an additional proof of the Sultan's determination to keep order, and was, in my opinion, a wise and prudent act. M. Saint René Taillandier concurred in this, and said that so far as he could gather from the reports he received from the frontier, all was quiet there at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 261.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September* 23.)

(No. 128.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 11, 1901.

I AM informed that a commencement has been made with the tribes round Morocco City for introducing the new system of taxation, on which I reported in my despatch No. 121 of the 30th ultimo, and the Sultan has sent me a message that he intends on his arrival at Rabat to extend the system to the tribes inhabiting the provinces in the Chaonia and the neighbourhood. I am also informed that a very fairly extensive gaol delivery has taken place, and that His Majesty proposes shortly to promulgate a scheme for the better management of the prisons. Furthermore, several Governors have been dismissed from their posts for misgovernment, but have simply been sent to their homes, and not imprisoned and their property confiscated, as was formerly the case. The Sultan has summoned from Fez and elsewhere several merchants and former Customs Administrators to advise on other reform measures, and those who have been called to Morocco City have been selected chiefly on account of their having resided in Europe and had some experience in European methods.

The Sultan has requested me to inform your Lordship that he is busily engaged in introducing improvements into the Administration, and I venture to submit that His Majesty's efforts merit commendation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 262.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 130. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 12, 1901.

I AM informed that Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, late Envoy to the French and Russian Governments, has returned to Morocco city, and had a prolonged audience of the Sultan immediately on his arrival. His Majesty, I understand, is satisfied with the arrangements which his Minister made in Paris as to the frontier, and is under the impression that the two tribes, the Doui Menia and Ouled Djerir, who are to opt, as I reported in my despatch No. 117 of the 26th ultimo, under which domination, French or Moorish, they wish to remain, will undoubtedly elect the latter. I am afraid that few share these sanguine hopes of the Sultan, and all the information I have received tends to indicate that the two above-mentioned tribes will place themselves under French jurisdiction, and thus practically introduce French rule further into the interior of the country than the Sultan at present contemplates.

The Envoy, I am informed, assured the Sultan that he would not have obtained so favourable a hearing had not the Sultan dispatched a Mission simultaneously to London and Berlin, and that it was the evidence afforded by the reception of that Mission of the interest felt by Great Britain and Germany in Moorish affairs which greatly facilitated his task. At the same time Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman told his master that he reposed little confidence in the assurances of the French Government, and that the existing arrangements should not be regarded as of a permanent nature. He feared that when a more favourable opportunity than the present arrived further encroachments would ensue.

The Envoy appears to have been much impressed by his visit to St. Petersburgh, and to have conveyed to the Sultan that Russia was a Power of great strength and of preponderating influence in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 263.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 131.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 13, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister has hinted, and the local Spanish press has repeated it with more assurance, that it might become necessary to make a display of naval force in Moorish waters if the negotiations regarding the two Spanish captives did not progress favourably. The papers also announced that the vessels which would be engaged for this purpose were collecting at Cadiz. In these circumstances it seemed to me that possibly such a demonstration might coincide with the proposed visit to Tangier of His Majesty's ship "Empress of India" and His Majesty's ship "Cæsar." The presence of some of His Majesty's ships on such an occasion would probably give rise to misconstruction. The Moorish authorities might consider they were sent to Tangier Bay as a counter-demonstration, while others might be of opinion that they had arrived to support the Spanish demands. Either interpretation would be unfortunate, and I therefore ventured to telegraph to your Lordship suggesting that the visit of His Majesty's ships should be abandoned. Even should the Spanish naval demonstration be postponed, the question regarding the captives is exercising the public mind here, and the arrival of a British man-of-war at this moment would certainly give rise to many speculations and misconceptions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON

---



## No. 264.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 132.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 16, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister convoked a meeting of the Diplomatic Body to-day in order to explain to them the position of the question regarding the two Spanish captives. M. de Ojeda recapitulated the history of the case, laying special stress on the inertia of the Moorish Government in the matter, and stated that by instructions from his Government he was about to dispatch the First Dragoman of the Legation to Morocco city with a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. de Ojeda communicated to his colleagues the contents of the note, which requested the Moorish Government to arrange with the Delegate from the Legation as to a date when the Sultan should dispatch an expedition to the tribes, in whose hands the captives are supposed to be detained, for the purpose of obtaining the liberation of these unfortunate individuals. He asked that we should, as he understood we had all received instructions from our Governments, afford him our moral support in the step he was taking.

I told M. de Ojeda that I should be prepared to intimate to the Moorish Government that the case was a grave one, and would be very unfavourably viewed by European Governments, and that they would do well to lose no time in taking such measures as would lead to the prompt release of the captives. My colleagues stated that they were willing to make communications in the same sense.

I asked M. de Ojeda if he could give us approximately the duration of the period his Government would allow to the Sultan before dispatching the expedition, and in the event of His Majesty suggesting that other means would be more efficacious for attaining the desired end, whether his Government would be willing to leave the choice of such methods to the Moorish Government.

M. de Ojeda replied that he would have to await a report from his Dragoman before committing his Government as to the date on which the expedition must start, but he imagined his Government would not be very exacting on that point, and would allow a delay of six weeks or two months. M. de Ojeda said he thought his Government would insist on the Sultan dispatching an expedition.

M. de Ojeda said he would probably send his Dragoman to Mazagan in a destroyer, which would act as a dispatch-boat to and from Mazagan, and he also would probably dispatch the head of the Spanish military Mission to accompany the Moorish expedition when it was in movement. He added that his Government did not contemplate making any naval demonstration for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

## No. 265.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 133.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 18, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note, with its inclosure, which the Sultan's Deputy has communicated to the several Legations here, regarding a new scheme of taxation which the Moorish Government desire to apply to all foreigners and protected persons as well as to their own subjects. The former categories can, by Treaty, be subjected to most, if not all, of the taxes enumerated in the inclosed document; but I am inclined to think that the mode of assessment and the amount of some of the proposed taxes are open to discussion.

I propose to consult with my colleagues and some competent merchants before addressing your Lordship in more detail on the subject. I forward the papers at present as I venture to submit they are evidence of a well-intentioned desire on the part of the Moorish Government to bring some method and order into the provincial administration, and they have done wisely in removing the collection of taxes from the hands of the

Governors, and intrusting specially-appointed functionaries with the duty. I believe that, so far as regards natives, the project is already being put into practice among some tribes in the south.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 265.

*Mohammed-ben-el-Arbi Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 29 *Jumadi*, 1319 (*September* 14, 1901).

A SHEREEFIAN letter has reached me to the effect that our Lord (compliments) has given his attention to matters which will benefit his subjects and put a stop to oppression and violence, and make life and property safe, and place this matter on a proper footing.

He has made new simple and advantageous arrangements in regard to these matters, which will benefit both the Makhzen and the people, and the officials and those under their authority will carry them into effect. They are as follows:—

Every one high and low, strong and weak, the great, and the rich and the poor equally shall pay yearly a fixed sum, also those foreign merchants in Morocco and their protégés, Moslems and Jews, and the officials of any class, upon camels, oxen, sheep, and goats, horses, mules, donkeys—for riding and working—olive and almond and fruit trees, vegetable gardens, henna gardens, and everything sown in the arable lands.

The said yearly sum is that which is stated before each kind in the inclosed note, and he has appointed administrators and notaries to collect it, and he has commanded them to make an inventory of everything held by each official and to give notice that any one concealing any of his property and not informing them of it, should it be subsequently discovered by inquiry, he will be punished by the confiscation of all he concealed.

Our Lord also issued his Shereefian command to follow out the foregoing with the Commissioners without deviation, and his officials to help in its execution only, and he has given them no authority to receive or pay, as the administrators and notaries are charged with that, and they are merely to limit themselves to assisting them and receiving their salaries, which will be appointed from the Treasury—may God fill it—so that they shall not receive from the people the smallest thing, as also the Ameens and notaries shall not receive from the people much or little.

Our Lord has commanded me to inform you of this, that you may be aware of it and report it to your friendly Government. I, therefore, inform your Excellency and await your reply.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 265.

*Memorandum on proposed System of Taxes.*

(Translation.)

Praise to God.

IN accordance with the new improvements and simple and advantageous Regulations which it is desired to introduce, whose benefits will attain the Makhzen—God exalt it—and all the subjects, the officials and all those appointed and those under them will act in conformity with them, and according to their rules; and, by the power of God, safety to life and property will ensue, and oppression, tyranny, violence, and murder will disappear; and wealth, agricultural and animal property, and commerce develop, thus causing an increased revenue to the Treasury—God fill it—and (the taxes) reach it in full. All will be equal in the taxes whose payment will be determined in the manner which will be stated, the high and low, the strong and weak, all officials, the great, the rich, the poor, and the foreign merchants in Morocco, and those Muslims and Jews under their protection. This will be drawn up in sundry Articles.

Article 1. Description of the articles which will be taxed: camels, cattle, sheep in their classes (*i.e.*, sheep and goats), horses, mules, and donkeys—riding and working—olive and almond trees, fruit trees, vegetable and henna gardens, and everything sown in the arable lands according to the yokes of oxen.



Art. 2. As to the manner of assessing the property of the people and showing the amount to be paid on each class.

Two Ameens and two notaries from the ports and towns adjoining each kabila will be appointed to register them in each kabila or each fifth part of a large kabila, such as Dukala and Showia; and every Governor will be instructed to assist them thoroughly and fully in all this, and they will be cautioned against negligence in this respect, and each of them will caution those under him that any one concealing any portion of his property, though little, will be punished.

They shall have a register for this purpose, and shall commence by registering the property of the Governor and his relatives then that of the rest of the people; and they shall note down opposite the name of the owner the amount of property he owns in each class in a column above which is to be noted the amount to be paid, which will be explained later. At the end of the columns will be the total amount due on all the classes of property, and they will deliver to each person a dated note with the signatures of the two notaries and two Ameens and the Governor's seal, giving the person's name, the classes of his property and the yearly tax, so that the payment shall be upon that and so on to the end of the operation. When any of them complete a register of his operations, he shall send it to the Shereefian Court and a copy to the appointed Ameen and a similar copy to the Governor, and they shall then depart. This arrangement will be renewed once in each year in the manner which will be explained in the following Article.

In conclusion of this matter the mona of the Ameens and notaries appointed for this purpose must be referred to. A sum of 6 dollars will be granted per day to each Ameen from the date of his setting out as salary and mona for himself and his men, also for the hire of animals and their fodder, and 3 dollars daily to each notary, the whole to be paid from the Treasury of the Muslims—God fill it—and to be paid from the expenditure of the port or town from which they set out.

The Umana will be instructed to pay to their representatives half-a-month's pay in advance, and on their return they shall make up accounts with them for the whole period, and the kabila or Governor shall have to pay nothing of this, but each person appointed and Governor will be cautioned against practising any form of covetousness.

---

NOTE of the yearly amount to be paid upon the articles mentioned in the preceding Article.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| On each camel | | 1 dollar. |
| „ young camel of 3 years of age | | ½ „ |
| „ head of cattle | | ½ „ |
| „ calf or heifer (of 2 years about) | | ¼ „ |
| „ hundred sheep | | 10 dollars. |
| „ hundred goats | | 5 „ |
| „ horse or mule | | ½ dollar. |
| „ donkey | | 1 peseta. |
| „ hundred olive and almond trees | | 5 dollars. |
| „ hundred fruit trees—all classes of oranges and palms | | 2½ „ |
| „ hundred of all other classes of thin wood trees | | 1¼ „ |
| Vegetable and henna gardens—the amount ploughed each year will be assessed and one-fifth shall be paid upon that. | | |
| Grain sown in arable land will pay according to the number of yoke of ploughing animals— | | |
| For each yoke of camels, horses, or mu'es | | 10 dollars. |
| „ „ oxen | | 5 „ |
| „ „ donkeys | | 2½ „ |

---

No. 266.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 134. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 20, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting some interesting information which he has obtained from the Figuig district.

There seems to be considerable doubt as to whether a conflict really occurred between Bu Amama and the French forces in the early summer, as to which I reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 100 of the 25th July; and the inten-

tions and attitude of Bu Amama appear still open to speculation. I should be inclined to doubt the report that the French authorities had announced their intention to mobilize troops on a fixed date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 266.

*Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 28. Confidential.)
Sir, *Fez, September* 16, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to send the following account of the present situation in the Figuig district, which has been furnished to me by a native of that region just returned from a two months' residence in it.

Bu Amama has had no armed conflict with the French this summer, and my informant is quite at a loss to understand why the natives of Ain Shair set such a story into circulation. Nor even did any intertribal quarrel of the least importance occur in that neighbourhood.

Bu Amama's relations with the French continue to be friendly; his reputation and influence, however, have suffered much in consequence since the tribes have come to realize how he serves the French, and now his only hearty followers seem to be about half of the Zenaga tribe, which half wishes to remain under the Sultan, and continues to believe that Bu Amama is really acting in the Sultan's interests. The other half of the Zenaga and all the adjacent tribes are now entirely friendly to the French, selling them supplies, hiring transport animals, and coming to labour on the railway and other works directly, and not as formerly, through Bu Amama's mediation.

The natives who favour the French and distrust Bu Amama lately have prevailed on him to remove from Hamam Al Fûkain to some district further west; but Kaïd Simo Al Chiradi, the Moorish Governor at Udaghir, succeeded in inducing him to remain where he was, even going the length of sacrificing to him to attain this end.

The Kaïd presumably considered Bu Amama less dangerous where he was than in a new district unaffected as yet by his arts, although, of course, he pleaded it was to promote Moorish interests that he wished him to remain at Figuig.

My informant also states that they intend to mobilize their troops at Zubia on the 15th October. The troops will then be divided into two divisions, one of which will proceed to occupy Ain Shair, and the other Kenadsah and Bechar.

The railway works have been proceeding vigorously: the bridge at Zubia is complete, and the terminus is now within 6 miles of Juan Dar.

At Melias the French have been reconnoitring a good deal, and samples of its water, which has a high local reputation, have been taken for examination at Paris.

Those of the Zenaga in whose territory Melias lies have refused to submit to a French occupation without the Sultan's assent, and have petitioned His Majesty to instal amongst them a garrison strong enough to resist any further French encroachments.

Both the Melias people and the other natives of that region seem to have quite given up hope of recovering any of the lands now occupied by the French.

The Figuig people, indeed, trade quite briskly with the garrison at Juan Dar, selling garden produce and taking down their old houses frequently for the sake of the rafters, which the French buy for 2 fr. to 2 fr. 50 c. each.

Men able to do mason work are earning 3 fr. per day on the railway and other works in construction at Juan Dar, and the whole district, in short, seems to have begun to acquiesce cheerfully in the new order of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. N. MacLEOD.

---



No. 267.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 88.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 127 of the 10th instant, reporting a conversation with the French Minister relative to the attitude of the Tafilelt and Berber tribes.

I approve the language held by you on this subject to M. Saint René Taillandier, as recorded in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 268.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 89.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1901.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 128 of the 11th instant, reporting the commencement and contemplated extension of the new system of taxation and the introduction of various other improvements in Morocco.

I request that you will convey to the Sultan an expression of the satisfaction with which His Majesty's Government have heard of the steps now being taken by His Majesty to effect improvements in the Administration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 269.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 1, 1901.

OWING to the intrigues of the reactionary party at Court, who are determined to procure Menebhi's disgrace and then stop all progressive measures, the late Envoys' position is again becoming very uncertain, although the arrangements made in London with him are now carried out, and the Sultan, at his suggestion chiefly, is inaugurating popular and useful reforms.

A short time ago Menebhi tendered his resignation; this was not accepted, but he continues to beg for our protection, and is very uneasy.

I received another urgent appeal from him by special courier last night. I fear more harm than good might be done by too active intervention on his behalf; but quite recently I sent the Sultan a private message from myself in his favour.

The Sultan has again become much prejudiced against Menebhi. His Majesty is very vacillating, but at present most friendly.

If I did not fear that just now an unexpected visit would cause too much comment here, I would propose to go to Morocco city.

---

No. 270.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 92.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1901.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 50 of yesterday's date on the subject of the present position of El Menebhi at the Moorish Court and the Sultan's attitude towards him. I concur in the opinion expressed by you in the last paragraph of that telegram, that an unexpected visit on your part to Morocco city just now would be inexpedient, and provoke comment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 271.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 7.)*

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1901.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, containing additional particulars of the situation at Figuig and its neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 271.

*Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 29.)
Sir, *Fez, September* 18, 1901.

FROM subsequent conversations with the native referred to in my despatch No 28 of the 16th instant, I have gathered the following additional particulars relative to the present position at Figuig and in north-east Morocco generally.

No railway works have as yet been begun between Juan Dar and Igli, nor is there even a telegraph line between them. I expressed some doubt as to the accuracy of the latter assertion, but my informant insisted there was no such telegraph line, and if such existed to Igli it must reach it from the east or south-east.

It seemed to be the intention of the French authorities to make Juan Dar the base for their next extensions, and so, before these can be entered upon, the necessary buildings there must be erected. This will, my informant thinks, take about two or three months at the least.

The tracks between Juan Dar and Igli have, however, been put into sufficient repair to allow of wheeled traffic of the roughest kind upon them.

The following are the numbers and dispositions of the French troops in Figuig region, as given by my informant. On his journey he passed through each of the garrisons referred to hereinafter, both French and Moorish.

Even when speaking in quite good faith, illiterate natives here are, however, so apt to exaggerate large numbers that I submit the following figures with all reserve, and mainly to afford data for comparison with other reports which may be received:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Unaasa .. .. .. .. | Now empty, and their garrisons gone to the stations undermentioned. |
| Hassi Musa .. .. .. .. | |
| Wad Dermel .. .. .. | 600, or less. |
| Juan Buzerg .. .. .. | 600, or less. |
| Zubia .. .. .. .. | 300 or 400. |
| Juan Dar .. .. .. .. | 2,500 or more. |
| In all .. .. | 5,000. or so, of whom about two-thirds are Europeans. |

There are no troops between Juan Dar and Igli.

Of Moorish troops near Figuig there appear to be only a few scores, those of Kaid Simo Al Chiradi at Udaghir.

The numbers and distribution of the Moorish troops are as follows:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kasbah-al-Msim .. .. .. | .. | Practically none. |
| Kasbah-sidi-Muluk .. .. | 1,000 | Three battalions. |
| Oujdah .. .. .. .. | 100 | Formerly there were three battalions here, but want of food and irregular pay have led to wholesale desertions. |
| *Kasbah Saida .. .. .. | 1,000 | These garrisons (marked *) are said to be better fed and more regularly paid than others, and so have not suffered much from desertions. |
| *Jenada (Kaid-al-Bashir's force) .. | 2,000 | |
| *Tafusit (Muley Bubker's force) .. | 2,000 | |
| †Udaghir .. .. .. .. | 100 | |
| Total .. .. .. | 6,200 | |

† Udaghir, close to, and west of, Figuig.



It is this estimate especially which I incline to think much exaggerated. Probably about 3,000 would be nearer the true number of Moorish troops. Moreover, so far off are they, and so difficult to traverse is the intervening roadless country, that it would take at least twelve to fifteen days for most of them to reach those parts of the Figuig district most liable to be the scenes of hostilities.

Besides this, there are not, as in Algeria, troops at or near the coast available and quickly transportable to reinforce them.

The Commissariat difficulties on the Moorish side would also be very much greater than on the French. Hitherto, of course, the Moorish Government has always supposed the frontier people warlike enough to defend themselves, but their hopeless collapse before the recent French advances should surely dispel that error.

The railway is open to public as well as Governmental traffic.

Bearing in mind the correspondence which has arisen from time to time regarding it, I questioned my informant closely as to what he saw of the trans-frontier traffic in the Oujdah district.

He stated that a brisk illicit trade was being done quite openly in cattle, horses, mules, donkeys, and, to a much smaller extent however, in sheep and goats.

Both on his outward and homeward journeys he constantly saw large numbers of all of these on their way to the large weekly market at Lalla Maghuia.* This is confirmed [*sic*] by all I learn here, that the Moorish Government's efforts to regularize this traffic are half-hearted and quite ineffective.

On the other hand, my informant saw practically no traffic in European goods from Morocco, and he attributes this to the vigilance of the French Customs at Oujdah; the Governor's authority is, he says, scarcely even nominal. His troops, Embazuia and Askav alike, have dwindled, mainly by desertions, to a mere handful, and the only functionary exercising any effective rule is the Cadi, to whom the tribesmen resort voluntarily for the settlement of affairs of a personal kind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

No. 272.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 7.)*

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 28, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a note I have received from the Sultan's Deputy here, announcing that the Sultan has issued orders permitting the coastwise trade in grain and other food-stuffs from one port to another free of duty.

A deposit will have to be made by the shipper at the port of shipment, which deposit will be returned to him on the landing of the articles at the port of destination. This precaution is adopted to prevent illicit exportation abroad.

The permission to carry wheat and barley free of duty from one port to another will be of very great benefit to the people, as hitherto these cereals could only be transported in very limited quantities and under special passes, and only to a few privileged foreigners or foreign-protected subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 272.

*Mohammed-ben-el-Arbi Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, 13th Jumad II,* 1319 (*September* 28, 1901).

HIS Shereefian Majesty has decided to free the shipment, from one port to another of this kingdom—the happy—of all classes of food-stuffs, such as grain, vegetables, fruit, fowls, and eggs, duty free, on the condition that it is done in the same manner as the merchandize shipped from one port to another of the Empire and stipulated in the Book of Regulations, *i.e.*, that a note containing the class of the goods

* About half-way between Tlemcen (French) and Udja (Moorish), well within the Algerian frontier.—M. G.

the number of its mark, the weight and name of its owner, and that of the steamer it is shipped by, signed by one of the Adools and the two Ameens, shall be given to the owner of the goods, and that he shall deposit an amount equal to the duty upon it, &c., as laid down in that Article. And if the article shipped be grain at the time when its exportation is prohibited, a deposit shall be received from him equal to double the duty, so that the matter may remain regulated.

I inform your Excellency of this that you may be aware of it.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

---

No. 273.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 7.)*

(No. 137.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September 28, 1901.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report that a meeting was recently held of the Diplomatic Body to examine the new scheme of taxation proposed by the Moorish Government.

My colleagues were all of opinion that every encouragement should be given to the good intentions which apparently prompted the promulgation of the project, but there were several points on which some further information and explanations were deemed necessary before we submitted the question of the application of the taxes to our several Governments. It was, therefore, considered desirable to request the Moorish Government to nominate some competent functionary to discuss the matter with us, and thus place us in a position to give full explanation to our Governments.

I beg leave to transmit copy of the note which the Spanish Minister, as Doyen, is addressing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs for the above purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 273.

*M. de Ojeda to Ci Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.*

(Après les compliments d'usage.) *Tanger, le Octobre, 1901.*

LES Représentants des Puissances ont été informés par une note de Cid Mohammed Torres, datée du 29 Jumad, 1319, qu'un Édit Shériffien avait été promulgué à l'effet de substituer le mode actuel de fixation et de recouvrement des impôts par de nouvelles mesures fiscales destinées à en assurer la répartition équitative, à éviter dorénavant les abus auxquels l'ancien système de perception donnait lieu, et à garantir d'une façon efficace les vies et les propriétés des sujets de Sa Majesté Shériffienne. La note de Cid Mohammed Torres contenait en outre un règlement pour l'application de ces mesures.

Les Représentants des Puissances, après avoir examiné la note du Délégué et le Règlement qui y est adjoint, me chargent de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien être auprès de Sa Majesté Shérifiénne l'interprète des sentiments de satisfaction que leur a causée l'annonce de réformes aussi louables, appelées sans doute à porter un remède efficace aux abus signalés dans la Circulaire du Délégué Shériffien à Tanger.

C'est donc animés de ces sentiments que les Représentants des Puissances, dans la mesure de leurs attributions respectives, seront heureux de prêter à Sa Majesté Shériffienne leur concours pour l'application des réformes projetées.

Cependant un examen attentif du Règlement a suggeré aux Représentants quelques doutes qu'ils seraient heureux de pouvoir éclaircir.

Il serait par suite désirable d'arriver à une entente préalable parfaite entre le Maghzen et les Représentants sur la portée de certaines dispositions et sur quelques détails dont la nature purement technique ou locale exige de plus amples informations.

A cet effet les Représentants des Puissances m'ont chargés de prier votre Excellence de désigner un Délégué *ad hoc* de la plus haute compétence en ces matières, qui serait chargé d'interpréter auprès du Corps Diplomatique toute la pensée du Maghzen de



manière à mettre les Puissances en état de se décider en toute connaissance de cause. Après accord sur les principes ce Délégué aurait tous pouvoirs pour s'entendre avec les Représentants des Puissances sur l'application des nouvelles taxes aux terrains de culture, arbres fruitiers, et animaux des étrangers et protégés étrangers.

(Signé) OJEDA.

---

No. 274.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 7.)*

(No. 139. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September 29, 1901.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 120 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have been given confidentially to understand that the Moorish Government hesitate to give the Contract for telegraph lines down the coast exclusively to Germany, as they fear strong objections will be raised in certain quarters to such a preference. They, therefore, propose to adopt the following procedure. Shereefian orders will be sent to His Majesty's Deputy here to inform the foreign Representatives that the Sultan desires to lay underground lines between Tangier and Mogador with stations at all the ports, and a branch line from Mazagan or Daralbaida to Morocco city, and also a line from Tangier to Fez. Cid Mohammed Torres will be instructed to ask for tenders for this work. After all the lines have been laid the contractors are to hand them over to the Moorish Government giving a guaranteed certificate that everything is in good and proper order, the contractors binding themselves to keep the lines in repair during a certain period to be specified in the Contract. The Moorish Government will themselves engage operators, male or female, from different nations, who are conversant with English, French, German, or Spanish. Two or three Moors will be attached to each telegraph station to learn the work.

As the Moorish Government are apparently nervous as to giving the lines to exclusive German enterprise, and as under the above plan the working of the lines would be in the hands of various nationalities, it may be well to leave the matter alone and trust that this new undertaking will be carried to a successful issue. Presumably the work will be given out in sections, as the lines will travel over a considerable extent of country. Placing the lines underground is adopted with a view of preventing constant interruption by the ignorant peasants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 275.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 7.)*

(No. 140. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October 1, 1901.*

I RECEIVED last night by special courier a letter from the Court, reporting another change in the continually shifting situation at the capital. It appears that on the 24th instant Ci-Fedal-Gharnit summoned all the Colonels of the regiments, and, in the presence of the High Chamberlain, informed them that he had learnt that a plot had been hatched among some of them against his life, and that one of them who belonged to the tribe of Cid-el-Mehedi-el-Menebhi had stated that he intended personally, or by deputy, to take the life of the Vizier. The Sultan had, therefore, commanded that this Colonel should be degraded to the ranks. Ci-Fedal-Gharnit further informed the officers that in future they were to obey no orders but those which they received directly from the Sultan.

I am informed that there is absolutely no foundation for the charges suddenly sprung upon the Colonels, and that if there had been any grounds for the accusation against the Colonel who has been degraded, the matter would have been thoroughly sifted to ascertain the extent of the alleged conspiracy. The officer who has been summarily condemned was not afforded an opportunity of giving explanations or saying a word in his own defence.

So soon as the Minister of War heard of these proceedings he solicited an audience of the Sultan, and requested some explanation as to this interference in his functions,

but His Majesty refused to give him any explanation, and apparently treated him with great severity. Ci-Mehedi-el-Menebhi thereupon asked permission to resign his post; but the Sultan refused to accede to his reqeust, and told him he was to attend the Court during His Majesty's pleasure.

El-Menebhi is much disquieted by this last move on the part of his enemies, which has been so far successful as to have brought him once more under the grave displeasure of his Sovereign.

He begged Sir H. Maclean to dispatch a special courier to me to inform me of what had passed, and to say he was quite willing to remain at his post, and to do his utmost, so far as was in his power, towards carrying out the reforms and improvements which are gradually being introduced, but that he will be unable to stem the current which is setting so strongly against him unless he receives protection for himself, family, and property. Secure of such protection, he says he would be able to face the difficulties confronting him, but that he cannot endure the thought of his wives and children being turned adrift in the event of his being arrested and imprisoned.

I venture to submit that the formal grant of protection would be unadvisable; but I have told Sir H. Maclean that, in the event of El-Menebhi resigning or being dismissed from his office, he could inform the Sultan from me that any humiliation or ill-treatment of El-Menebhi or of his family or any confiscation of his property would, I was sure, be most unfavourably viewed. If he leaves the Court, either voluntarily or compulsorily, he should do so as a free man, with his family and property intact. If His Majesty has any charges against him these should be fairly and openly inquired into, but that any arbitrary treatment would, in my opinion, be most unjust.

I trust your Lordship will not disapprove of my having sent this message, but it seemed to me that Sir H. Maclean should have ready some declaration in case a sudden disgrace occurred. Moreover, the Sultan quite recently informed me that in future the practice of confiscating the property, imprisoning the individual, and leaving the family of fallen officials destitute, was to be abandoned, and that those who were dismissed would be simply sent into retirement at their homes.

The fall of El-Menebhi would be the triumph of the reactionary party and the relapse of Morocco into its former deplorable condition. The Sultan alone would soon tire of carrying out his new policy, especially when all his surroundings were opposed to it. I have privately warned His Majesty to be cautious in listening to those whose personal interests are against improvements and reforms, and who regard El-Menebhi as the chief obstacle to a return to the old order of things. It will be of some interest, and also of some anxiety, to watch the further development of this latest phase.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 276.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received October 7.*)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 1, 1901.

THE Sultan has caused me to be informed that he has sent orders for three men from each village in the country to attend at Court, as he intends to convey personally to them the instructions he has issued; that in future no provincial Governor is to be permitted to levy improper contributions or extort anything, in money or kind, from the people. No Governor is in future to be permitted to arbitrarily imprison or punish any native, and any official who is reported to the Sultan as having violated the above rules will be severely punished. His Majesty will also tell the Delegates that the lives and properties of his subjects are under his care and protection and in safety.

The Sultan says that, in making these communications personally to the Delegates, the Governors will find it impossible to ignore or contravene the orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 277.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 95.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1901.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 136 of the 28th ultimo relative to the orders issued by the Sultan permitting the coastwise trade in grain and other foodstuffs from one port to another free of duty, I request that you will take an opportunity of expressing to His Majesty the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at the adoption of this measure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 278.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 96.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 137 of the 28th ultimo, reporting that a meeting of the Diplomatic Body was held to examine the new scheme of taxation proposed by the Moorish Government.

I approve of the note addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on this subject, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch above referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 279.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 97.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 138 of the 29th ultimo, summarizing the principal points of the proposed improvements in the administration of Moorish prisons, and reporting that the reforms are to be carried out immediately.

In conveying to the Sultan the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at the receipt of this information, you might add that public opinion in England has been favourably impressed by the announcement, and that the progress of these reforms, which reflect credit on His Majesty's humane qualities, will be followed with much interest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 280.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 98.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 140 of the 1st instant relative to the position at Court of Cid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, and the attitude of the Sultan towards him.

I concur in your view that a formal grant of protection to Menebhi would not in the circumstances be advisable, and I approve the tenour of your message to the Sultan, sent through Sir H. MacLean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 281.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 99.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 9, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 141 of the 1st instant on the subject of the reforms which the Sultan is introducing in the Administration.

I request that you will again express to the Sultan the satisfaction of His Majesty's Government at the energy displayed by His Majesty in the promotion of these measures.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 282.

*Foreign Office to Post Office.*

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1901.

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier relative to the installation of telegraph lines on the coast of Morocco.*

In view of the fact that the Moorish Government are hesitating to give the contract exclusively to Germany, and propose to adopt a course by which the working of the lines would be in the hands of various nationalities, I am to inquire whether you are still of opinion that the Eastern Telegraph Company should be made acquainted with the situation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

No. 283.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October* 16.)

(No. 51.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 16, 1901.

SPANISH captives.

A Circular note has been addressed by Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Legations, stating that it has been agreed by Moorish Government to meet the demands of Spain and to pay an indemnity, and also to send an expedition commanded by an uncle of the Sultan. The Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs trusts, however, that no further demands of Spanish Government will receive our support, alluding probably to other Spanish claims, of which the Spanish Minister, I understand, intends to press for settlement. These claims, which amount to a large sum, are in no way connected with the captives' question, and are of long standing date.

A Circular has also been sent by the Sultan's Deputy, stating that it is intended that the expedition shall punish the mountain tribes for their general lawlessness, and we are requested to give notice to our nationals in order that within a month all their interests which may be in the hands of the tribes may be withdrawn in order to prevent any claims for destruction of property.

The question may, it seems to me, take a wider scope than was anticipated originally, and very serious results might ensue from an attack on the mountain tribes. Personally, I would submit that it would be prudent to recommend to the Moorish Government that they should limit their endeavours to obtaining in the first place the release of the captives and afterwards to punishing the actual guilty parties, but not to embark on a campaign against the mountain tribes. I propose to consult with my colleagues, and will communicate to your Lordship their views on the subject.

---

* No. 274.



No. 284.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1901.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 51 of the 16th instant, announcing the proposed dispatch by the Moorish Government of an expedition with the object of obtaining the release of the Spanish captives, and also of punishing the mountain tribes for their lawlessness.

I shall await the further report promised by you after consultation with your colleagues. You should, however, point out to the Moorish Government the necessity of exercising extreme caution in entering upon a campaign against the mountain tribes.

---

No. 285.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October* 19.)

(No. 142.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 8, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, reporting an attack on a Portuguese subject at Fez. The individual in question seems to be a doubtful character, as I hear he has left this country without calling on his authorities, and his present whereabouts is unknown.

The Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires is somewhat perplexed as to what action to take, as in the general interests of Europeans he is desirous to obtain the punishment of the assailants, but owing to the departure of the party who was attacked it is impossible to have them identified. He is awaiting a further report from Mr. MacLeod, who is in charge of Portuguese interests at Fez.

As this is the second attack on Europeans in Fez it would be unfortunate if the affair were passed over. The local authorities at Fez appear to have been indifferent and remiss, and disposed to make light of the matter. Indeed, the Basha of Fez informed the Sultan's deputy here that no assault had been committed, and that the Portuguese had only been suffering from a slight attack of fever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 285.

*Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 30.)

Sir, *Fez, September* 30, 1901.

FOR your information, as the case seems to affect the security of Europeans here generally, I have the honour to send the following particulars of a riotous attack upon a young Portuguese which occurred here on the 19th instant, and which, as having charge of Portuguese interests here, I have to deal with.

The man gives his name and address as Stanislas da Silva Cordosa, Rua Nova de Carmo, Lisbon, and his calling as a pharmaceutist.

He came here recently from Tangier and Wazzan, and at the latter town adopted Moorish garb, and, he admits, made a nominal profession of Islam.

Finding nothing to do there he passed on to Fez, and lodged at Sid Omar Banada's.

Sid Omar brought him to me subsequently for relief or repatriation, and arrangements were begun to set him up in a small shop to sell medecines.

On the 19th instant he was on his way from Banada's to this house when, on passing near the holy quarter of Mulai Dris, a shopkeeper said something to him. He answered that he did not know Arabic, whereupon the shopkeeper jumped from his shop and struck him on the head.

A mob forthwith collected, and began to beat him with sticks and keys.

Luckily a young Moor who recognized him interfered so pluckily and cleverly that

he was enabled to escape by degrees back to his lodging, the mob, however, pursuing all the time.

The crowd seemed beside itself, and cries for "wood and petroleum to burn the Christian as we did to Marcos Essagui last year" were to be heard.

But before the mob could force the man's lodging soldiers from the Basha, who had been informed of the affair by a messenger from Banada, arrived to guard it. The same messenger came on to inform me. I hurried off two men to ask for more soldiers from the Basha to disperse the mob entirely, and to go and inquire into the affair, and, if need be, themselves to assist in protecting the place. I then went myself to the Basha's to make sure the soldiers were sent.

Meanwhile, Mr. David Y. Cooper, of the North Africa Mission, whose house is not far from Banada's, and who had been summoned by the latter, arrived to render medical assistance.

He found the Portuguese apparently more dead than alive, stripped of all his clothes except a shirt, streaming with blood, and severely bruised on the shoulders, arms, head and one eye. Mr. Cooper's restoratives gradually brought him round, and he was able, after a fashion, when I visited him later, to give an account of what had happened.

I then went to the Basha to inquire whether he had arrested any of the rioters, and if he had not (which I learned outside was the case) urged that he should arrest and punish them severely, and also punish severely the shopkeepers under whose eyes the attack took place, who, and householders, are by immemorial usage here, each responsible for public order in front of his house or shop.

In such narrow streets as those of Fez a riot is hardly possible if shopkeepers and householders do this duty—which seems justly incumbent on them—as no guards are maintained in the streets and consequently there is no police rate to pay.

From day to day the Basha assured me that he had not been able to discover the criminals, so on the evening of the 22nd instant I called on him and remonstrated strongly on the want of energy he was displaying—which was very unjust to the victim of the riot, and intolerable from the point of view of the security of Europeans. It was impossible, I urged, that the mob of Fez could be allowed to maltreat Europeans with impunity and that the shopkeepers be permitted to view with either sympathy or indifference an affair of this kind.

Eventually the Basha promised to summon next day all the shopkeepers who had been witnesses (at the least) of the riot, and two or three persons suspected of participating actively in it, and to insist upon a full discovery of the affair.

Meanwhile the Portuguese had assured me he could identify the man who first attacked him, who is a shopkeeper, and could point out the shop.

No witnesses, however, could be found, and the district being a labyrinth of little shops, and the Portuguese a stranger, his descriptions were necessarily apt to give rise to mistakes, unless in person he pointed out the place—and this he was as yet too ill to do.

On the 23rd the Basha however did nothing, but on the 24th late in the evening he sent his secretary privately to the Portuguese and offered to pay him 20 dollars and his expenses to Tangier if he would give a discharge from his claim and leave Fez at once.

The Portuguese took the offer, and, weak as he must still have been, left for Tangier at daybreak next day with the men and animals provided by the Basha; all this, of course, without letting me know.

The following morning (the 26th), on going to see how he was progressing, I learned of his departure, and by that day's post reported the circumstances to M. d'Oliveira, the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires.

In doing so I pointed out that the Basha's object was clearly to elude, if possible, punishing the criminals—publicly at any rate, though he might perhaps fine some of the shopkeepers privately—and so it was essential to get the Portuguese out of the way before he could point out exactly his first assailant and his neighbours. The Basha has subsequently, I learn, had the principal shopkeepers concerned brought before him, and has warned them that, "while he has settled this case, they must be careful not to let such an occurrence happen again," and so on.

But no arrest or punishment has taken place, the Basha apparently preferring to lose 20 or 30 dollars from his own pocket rather than face the momentary unpopularity of doing his plain duty.

How unprovoked and indefensible the riot was, is, I think, shown conclusively by the Basha's desire to hush it up.

As the Portuguese is, by his own admission, a fugitive and renegade, and may



prove to be an outlaw as well, I have been careful to make no demand in the matter—except, of course, for the punishment of the culprits and shopkeepers—until I shall receive M. d'Oliveira's instructions, and his opinion of the secret arrangement alluded to. Meanwhile, now that the excitement of the affair is passing away, and people will doubtless be less afraid to speak, I hope to be able to gradually collect enough evidence to make sure of no miscarriage of justice, should M. d'Oliveira be disposed to ignore the secret arrangement referred to, and exact the punishment of the rioters and shopkeepers, many of the latter of whom must have taken an active as well as a passive part in the affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

No. 286.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 144. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 10, 1901.

ACCORDING to information which has reached me from the Court, the Sultan is desirous of removing El Mehedi El Menebhi from his position as Minister of War and transferring him to some other office which has not been specified. His Majesty, in causing me to be informed of this wish on his part, stated that Menebhi had merited some sign of disapproval on account of his haughty and overbearing manner towards his subordinates, and also because he had misled his Sovereign in several important matters. The Sultan, nevertheless, added that if I desired that El Menebhi should remain at his present post, he would be allowed to do so; and His Majesty assured me that in any case El Menebhi himself, his family, and his property would not be touched.

I have replied that it is hardly within my province to intervene in the matter of what office El Menebhi should fill, though, personally, I should have thought it would be better to leave him in his present position, as constant changes in the Government were unsettling to the country, and caused a bad impression abroad. I was glad, I added, to receive His Majesty's assurances as to the immunity which would be allowed to El Menebhi and his family and property, and that I took note of them.

I trust your Lordship will approve of this reply. I did not allude to the other points raised by the Sultan, as the attitude of El Menebhi to his subordinates is not singular in this country, and, moreover, could hardly constitute a serious offence. The Sultan did not specify the instances in which he had been misled by his Minister, and these, I submit, are matters with which it would not be proper for me to deal.

I am afraid that the position of El Menebhi with his master can hardly be replaced on its former intimate and confidential footing; and I gather from my own information and from that received by some of my colleagues that the final solution of this kind of Ministerial crisis will probably be the eventual disappearance from office both of Ci Fedal Gharnit and of El Mehedi El Menebhi, and the installation as Grand Vizier of Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, the late Envoy to Paris and St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 287.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 12, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister has informed me that the Moorish Government have agreed to dispatch an expedition of some 3,000 men to punish the tribes who abducted the Spanish captives, and at the same time to endeavour to procure their release from those who were at present detaining them. The question of the troops being accompanied by the Chief of the Spanish Military Mission had led to some discussion, and although the Moorish Government had agreed to the Spanish officer proceeding with the Mission, they declined to take the responsibility for any misadventure which might befall him. The Spanish Minister, under instructions from his Government, had, however, insisted that the Moorish authorities should acknowledge their responsibility for the safety of the officer, and they finally acquiesced, at the same time requesting that the officer should not

wear European uniform or clothes, which seems to be a prudent and reasonable precaution.

The Moorish Government have announced by public crier at Tangier, and, I believe, at one or two other places, that a reward of about 700*l.* would be granted to any one who is able to restore the captives to freedom, or to give such information as will lead to that result.

I understand that the expedition will also be joined by some of the tribes of the Gharb district, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Spanish Dragoman that if serious resistance were offered by the mountain tribes the Sultan would go in person to the localities.

The Spanish Minister further told me that he had no definite information as to the whereabouts of the captives, or as to whether they were alive or not, and he was not aware in what manner or in what direction the Moorish expedition would proceed towards the accomplishment of its task.

M. de Ojéda added that the Moorish Government had consented to pay the indemnity or fine of about 5,000*l.* which he had demanded; but they had strongly demurred to dismissing the Bashas of Tangier and Arzila as he had requested. M. de Ojéda considered that these functionaries had been culpable of great negligence, but in view of the pressing representations of the Moorish Government, he had suggested to his Government that he should express himself satisfied if the above officials made formal and public apologies.

He also told me that he was authorized to demand, before the question should be considered finally closed, the settlement of all outstanding Spanish claims, which amounted altogether to about 30,000*l.* He said that he might eventually accept a compromise of about 20,000*l.*, if this sum were paid immediately to him for distribution among the various claimants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 288.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)*

(No. 410.)
My Lord,
*Paris, October 17, 1901.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 339 of the 28th August last, I have the honour to inclose an article extracted from the "Bulletin du Comité de l'Afrique Française" for the current month, giving some information regarding affairs in South Algeria.

There are, it is stated, indications that the greater part of the Doui Menai and Ouled Djerir tribes will not avail themselves of the option given them by the recent Franco-Moorish arrangement of withdrawing from their present camping grounds westward, in order to avoid coming under French domination. The Moorish Government has appointed a Commission to proceed to the South Algerian frontier, and co-operate with a French Commission in carrying out the arrangement in question, which is described as providing for a rough delimitation, involving a repartition of the border tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 288.

*Extract from "L'Afrique Française" of October 15, 1901.*

LES AFFAIRES DU SUD.—Les derniers rapports parvenus de l'Extrême-Sud signalent les symptômes d'une amélioration réelle dans la situation de l'Extrême-Sud Oranais. Cent tentes d'une fraction des Doui-Menia font des préparatifs pour venir s'installer sur la Zousfana. D'autre part, on annonce qu'un chef des Oulad Djérir a demandé au Commandant de l'annexe d'Igli l'autorisation de venir avec trente tentes se fixer sur le territoire Français. Ces nouvelles semblent bien indiquer que ni les Doui-Ménia, ni les Oulad-Djérir, ou du moins la majorité d'entre eux n'ont l'intention de se prévaloir du dernier arrangement Franco-Marocain permettant aux membres de ces tribus qui ne voudraient pas vivre sous l'autorité Française de se retirer à l'intérieur. Cette clause n'a d'ailleurs jamais été destinée "qu'à sauver la face" de Sa Majesté Chérifienne qui ne veut pas avoir l'air d'abandonner des fidèles à la domination des mécréants. On n'a jamais pu penser sérieusement que des fractions de tribus quitteraient leurs terrains de parcours



traditionnels pour essayer de s'insinuer entre les groupes Marocains qui tenteraient certainement de faire un mauvais parti à ces intrus sur leurs pâturages.

Le Maghzen a nommé une Commission qui ira sur place régler, avec une Commission Française, les détails d'exécution du *modus vivendi* conclu avec la France. On sait qu'il s'agit d'une délimitation à très grands traits, et d'une répartition de tribus qui exige une entente dans le pays même. La Commission Marocaine doit s'embarquer à Tanger et passer par Alger pour se rendre dans le sud. Ce n'est pas une nouvelle preuve de la facilité avec laquelle le Sultan du Maroc fait sentir son autorité dans sons Empire: ce Envoyés auraient grand'peine à se rendre directement, à travers le territoire Marocain, aux confins des Beraber et des Doui-Ménia.

Le Maghzen a toujours recherché dans l'arrangement un moyen d'éviter de nouveaux pas en avant de l'occupation Française en rendant impossible de nouveaux conflits. D'ailleurs, l'autorité Chérifienne semble redouter particulièrement des collisions dans les marches du sud: on dit qu'elle a mandé à la Cour les Chefs religieux et Notables du Tafilet pour les exhorter à s'abstenir de toute parole pouvant exciter les nomades de la région à tenter quelque agression contre les postes Français du Touat. Du côté Marocain on paraît beaucoup tenir à éviter toute nouvelle affaire de Timmimoun.

D'après certaines nouvelles, en présence de l'achèvement de l'occupation de l'Extrême-Sud Oranais, M. Revoil aurait décidé de donner au Sahara l'organisation autonome et définitive que ses conditions particulières exigent. Le sud serait partagé en deux commandements, l'un à l'est et l'autre à l'ouest; ils auraient respectivement pour chefs-lieux Biskra et Aïn-Sefra, et un Général de Brigade serait mis à la tête de chacun d'entre eux. En admettant que cette nouvelle soit vraie, il faut se demander si ce n'est pas encore là un pas trop timide vers l'organisation que l'unité du pays exige, celle du grand commandement embrassant tout le Sud Algérien.

---

No. 289.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 19.)*

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P.
*Tangier, October 19, 1901.*

MY immediately preceding telegram: Spanish captives.

It appears that the proposed campaign of Sultan against mountain tribes is considered by my colleagues to be a matter of internal affairs, and consequently one in which they have no concern. They wish at the same time to obtain some more precise information concerning which districts and which tribes the Moorish Government intend to punish, and they are not inclined to absolve them from all responsibility as to possible injury to foreign interests or property.

It would still, in my opinion, be wise that the object of expedition should be limited to search of captives, but before making any remarks to the Moorish Government I will await further instructions from your Lordship. I am reporting on the subject by bag.

---

No. 290.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 104.)
Sir,
*Foreign Office, October 23, 1901.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 144, Confidential, of the 10th instant, reporting the desire of the Sultan to remove El-Menebhi from his position as Minister for War.

I approve the language used by you in your reply to His Majesty as recorded in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 291.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 148.)
My Lord,
*Tangier, October 17, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply to the unofficial representations which I

in conjunction with my colleagues, made to him with the object of moving the Moorish Government to adopt measures for the speedy liberation of the Spanish captives. As his Excellency referred me to the communication which he had addressed to the Spanish Minister, I called on M. de Ojeda and inquired of him if I might be informed of the nature of the reply which he had received from Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to the demands which he had formulated in the note which he had been good enough to read to the Diplomatic Body on a previous occasion.

M. de Ojeda said he had not available the full translation of the Moorish reply, but he read to me an extract which stated that the Moorish Government would send an expedition under the command of an uncle of the Sultan; that they would pay an indemnity of about 32,000 dollars, although they considered it excessive; that they would consent to the Spanish Colonel accompanying the expedition on condition that he wore Moorish dress, and that they would be prepared to indemnify this officer's family in the event of any misadventure occurring to him, though they would take every precaution to insure his safety. The note further added that, in the event of the captives having died, the Moorish Government would be ready to grant a further reasonable sum to the family. In regard to the dismissal of the Governors of Arzila and Tangier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs argued at some length against this measure; but as I understand from M. de Ojeda that his Government will probably waive that point, I need not trouble your Lordship with details concerning it.

I thanked M. de Ojeda for his communication, and pointed out to him that Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman appeared to be uneasy lest further demands should be made, and I presumed this had reference to the other Spanish claims which he had mentioned to me at our last interview, in regard to which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 145 of the 12th instant. I remarked that naturally such matters were questions between his Legation and the Moorish Government in which other Representatives had no concern, and I asked if I were correct in assuming that he kept the question of claims distinct from that of the liberation of the captives. M. de Ojeda said that if his Government made concessions in regard to the dismissal of the two Governors, they had a right to expect that the Moorish Government would, on their side, in return give full satisfaction to long outstanding claims.

I told M. de Ojeda on such points I could pass no opinion, but I begged him to understand that my unofficial intervention had been strictly limited to steps likely to lead to the liberation of the captives, and that in all other matters such as reparation, punishment, or monetary compensation, I was not entitled to interfere.

It seemed desirable to be quite explicit on this point, as my colleagues with myself have some fears lest the Moorish Government may have been brought under the impression that support will be given to all Spanish demands all along the line. As these demands seem to increase with time it would, I submit with all respect, be prudent not to advance beyond the friendly and unofficial steps already taken and which were dictated by a spirit of sympathy towards two unfortunate individuals detained as captives by the mountain tribes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 291.

*Cid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 23*rd Jumad II*, 1319 (*October* 7, 1901).

WE received the letters of the intelligent Representatives of the friendly foreign Powers at Tangier, acting under instructions from their respective Governments, suggesting that attention be paid to the requests of the friendly Spanish Government regarding the two missing Spaniards. We gave our attention to the matter, and His Majesty, acting on our friendly suggestion, consented to lean towards facilitating it, as is contained in our reply to our friend the Minister of the glorious Spanish Government, who will doubtless acquaint you with it and which is sufficient. When you become acquainted with the reply and consider it we have no doubt His Majesty's action will meet with your approval, and will lead you to give your best good counsels to both sides to stop further words about this case, and that no demand further than that contained in our reply be made, as the Maghzen hastened to do what was incumbent upon it, and even more, in order to satisfy the Spanish Government and to insure the continuance of tranquillity with it, and also from regard to your friendly suggestion; and, as His Majesty



is about to set out with the Harka (troops on a journey), occupying his mind with many words about this question, in addition to the matters of the Harka, would cause him trouble, and we have replied to the said friendly Ministers to this effect.

May you continue.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

---

No. 292.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 17, 1901.

THE Sultan's Deputy here, Cid Mohammed Torres, has addressed a Circular note to the foreign Representatives, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, informing us that the Sultan purposes to send a punitive expedition against the mountain tribes "in these districts," and requesting us to instruct our nationals to withdraw, within the period of one month, any interests which they may have in the hands of those tribes.

I caused an inquiry to be made this morning of Cid Mohammed Torres as to which tribes it was proposed to punish, and as to which districts the expeditionary force intended to traverse, as until I had specific information on these points I could not manifestly be in a position to issue the desired notice.

Cid Mohammed Torres informed Mr. Irwin that he had communicated textually what he had received from the Moorish Government, but he could tell me privately that the expedition would inflict punishment on all the mountain tribes lying between Tangier and Wazzan.

This would be a very serious undertaking, even for a well organized and equipped force, if the tribes combined to resist, and I have received information that the tribes have heard of the projected expedition, and have already come to a solemn agreement to suspend their feuds and unite in armed opposition to any hostile demonstration against them.

There has, doubtless, been of late much lawlessness among these mountain tribes, and on one or two occasions they have visited some villages and towns in the plains, such as Alcazar for instance; but I would question the wisdom of a general campaign against these reckless and warlike highlanders in their mountain fastnesses by such a force as the Sultan is in a position to dispatch against them. The question will come before the Sultan is in a position to dispatch against them. The question will come before the Diplomatic Body, when an opportunity will be afforded of ascertaining the views of my colleagues; but my personal opinion is that if the Sultan really carries out his intention he will find he has embarked on an enterprise which may have more serious consequences than he anticipates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 292.

*Cid Mohammed Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 1*st Rajab*, 1319 (*October* 15, 1901).

HIS Shereefian Majesty intends to thoroughly punish the hill tribes in these districts, because of their lawlessness and their continual raids upon one another, bloodshed, pillaging property, and violation openly; they have even carried off females and boys from the towns and elsewhere.

This is being done to cause them to return to the right path, and to obtain from them the dues past and present of the people [they have injured] in lives and property and honour, including the elucidation of the case of the two missing Spaniards and others; this will be effected by the sending of an important force which will remain with them and traverse their country and clear up the facts of the cases alleged against them, and obtain proper justice for those cases.

Our Lord, God exalt him, has commanded me to acquaint you of this, in order that you may instruct your nationals to withdraw whatever property they may have in the hands of the said mountaineers, within the term of one month to count from the

1st instant; as if any property belonging to any of these merchants remains in their hands and it is comprised in the punishment, no responsibility will rest on the Government as it has fulfilled its obligation by anticipating the warning.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

---

No. 293.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 150.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 18, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extracts from a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Daralbaida, giving some items of news which I think may be of interest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 293.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 113.)

(Extract.) *October* 14, 1901.

ACCORDING to my information the Sus Provinces continue to be quiet, and His Majesty the Sultan appears to have informed the tribes that in future no tribute is required from them, but that taxes according to a new scale must be paid.

The people are reported to be pleased at this prospect.

Kaid Aufloos was, according to the last news, still at Tiznit with an army which has greatly dwindled in numbers.

The late Kaid of Morocco city, Ben Dand, was released from Tarudant and passed here with his harem a few days ago *en route* to Fez.

The last courier, twenty-three days from Cape Juby, reports that the garrison in that place is in great straits for water and food, but the steam-ship "Sid Eturki" was loading with provisions at Mogador for its relief.

There is a scarcity of food all over the southern provinces on account of the failure of last season's crops.

The influential Shereef, Ma-el-Ayneen, who has been mentioned before in despatches, has again arrived at Morocco city.

Kaid Ayad-ben-Hammida-el-Menebhi, Governor of Mogador, has returned to his post.

Three batches of prisoners, about sixty in all, have recently been released from Mogador gaol.

From Saffi it is reported that the Kaids are all refusing to meet their written engagements to merchants, on the grounds that they are now only overseers and have to be paid salaries, and that Oomana had been appointed for taxation and commercial purposes. A poll tax of 10 dollars, which had been levied and partially collected, is not now being further pressed.

The people in the provinces behind Saffi are in a deplorable state of poverty, but many who had recently run away are now returning, as they believe that the signs are in favour of their being allowed to plough in safety.

From Mazagan it is reported that Kaids are levying taxes on a high scale for "moona" for the Sultan's army. The same thing is occurring in Showia.

Mr. Vice-Consul Neroutsos informs me that the prisons in Rabat are almost empty of political prisoners, a great many of whom have been released during the last few months.

The inmates at present are nearly all thieves and rogues deserving restraint.

---



No. 294.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 151.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 19, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister has addressed a note to the Diplomatic Body announcing that the Spanish Government are satisfied with the manner in which the Moorish Government have received their demands in respect to the abduction of the Spanish subjects, and have taken note of the engagements which the Moorish Government have undertaken to fulfil. I have the honour to transmit copy of the above-mentioned note and of the arrangement which has been arrived at.

I inquired of M. de Ojeda this morning what was the date on which the Agreement would come into effect as mentioned in paragraph 2 of the Arrangement. He told me that he had sent instructions to the Spanish Dragoman to sign the arrangement, and he thought that the 24th or 25th instant could be taken as the date.

I also asked whether he had abandoned his demands for the dismissal of the Governors of Tangier and Arzila, and whether he still intended to press for the settlement of all outstanding Spanish claims.

He replied to the first question in the affirmative; and said that he was ready to defer discussion as to other Spanish claims, if the Moorish Government did not show a disposition to settle them.

He added that he foresaw that the Circular note of the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs might give rise to further discussion, and possibly observations on the part of some of his colleagues, and so he had, with the permission of his Government, closed the question on the basis communicated to us.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 294.

*M. de Ojeda to Foreign Representatives.*

MM. et chers Collègues, *Tanger, le* 17 *Octobre*, 1901.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que je viens d'être autorisé à déclarer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Chérifienne que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi, eu égard aux désirs exprimés par le Maghzen dans la réponse faite aux demandes de l'Espagne, voulant correspondre aux sentiments de cordialité qui ont inspiré les bons offices des Puissances dans l'affaire des captifs d'Arzila et donner en même temps à Sa Majesté Chérifienne une nouvelle marque de sa déférence, se déclare satisfait de l'accueil fait à ses demandes et prend acte des engagements contractés à ce sujet par le Gouvernement Chérifien, dont j'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre un extrait ci-joint.

Je suis heureux de vous exprimer à cette occasion toute ma reconnaissance pour l'intérêt que vous avez témoigné en faveur de mes compatriotes ainsi que pour les sympathies que vous m'avez manifestées au cours de cet incident déplorable.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) E. DE OJEDA.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 294.

*Bases of Arrangement between the Spanish and Moorish Governments.*

1. LE Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Chérifienne s'engage à mettre sur pied un corps d'armée destiné au rachat des captifs, sous le commandement de Muly-el-Amrani.

2. Le délai dans lequel ce corps d'armée devra terminer sa mission à la satisfaction de l'Espagne est fixé à cinquante jours comptés à partir de la date du présent accord.

3. Un officier de l'armée Espagnole muni d'un Firman du Sultan, sera adjoint au Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Chérifienne en qualité de Délégué de l'Espagne.

4. Le Maghzen, en cas où il arriverait malheur au Délégué à la suite d'opérations de guerre ou de l'hostilité des tribus, s'engage à satisfaire une indemnité à sa famille.

5. Le Maghzen s'engage à payer immédiatement à l'Espagne, en qualité de dommages

à la famille Montes, la somme de 9,000 pesetás et celle de 150,000 pesetas au Gouverne ment Espagnol comme peine muletatoire.

6. Le Gouvernement Chérifien reconnaît le droit du Gouvernement Espagnol à des indemnités ultérieures dont le montant dépendra du sort qu'auront subi les captifs et des frais qu'aura encourru le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté jusqu'à réglement complet de cette affaire.

---

No. 295.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 19, 1901.

A MEETING of the Diplomatic Body was held this morning to examine the note of the Sultan's deputy regarding the projected expedition against the mountain tribes, of which I had the honour to transmit a translation in my despatch No. 149 of the 17th instant.

All my colleagues agreed that it was necessary to obtain some more precise information as to which tribes and which districts it was proposed to attack, as these points were left quite vague in the Circular. The majority of my colleagues also expressed a doubt whether it would be advisable to absolve the Moorish Government from all responsibility for injury done to foreign property and interests, as the action of an expedition of the Sultan was not always limited to its professed objects, but usually swept over a wide area, and sought localities where there was the least resistance. This point was left over for further consideration at our next meeting.

I took the opportunity of inquiring of my colleagues whether we might not intimate in a friendly manner to the Moorish Government that the enterprise on which they proposed to embark was attended with considerable risks, and that great caution should be exercised in dealing with the mountain tribes. I pointed out that if the tribes coalesced, and information I had received seemed to point in that direction, a very serious condition of things might arise, and the conflict might spread beyond the original confines and assume a character we should all deplore.

The French Minister said that it appeared to him that the action of the Sultan's forces was a matter of purely internal interest in which we could not interfere; and that our care should be confined to securing the safety of the interests of our nationals. In this view the rest of my colleagues appeared to acquiesce, while the Spanish Minister observed that, as he had requested that an expedition should be dispatched, he could hardly suggest any modification. At the same time, he admitted that he did not wish that an expedition with precise and limited objects, viz., the release of the captives and the punishment of those who originally abducted them, should develop into a general raid on innocent and guilty alike.

I said that experience had shown us that those were the usual results of an expedition in Morocco, and I feared it might appear that, by not giving a friendly note of warning or counsel, we might seem, in a way, to sanction a measure which had a wider scope than we anticipated, and which, to my mind, was in some respects an unfortunate one. The matter then dropped.

I regret that my colleagues do not appear at present disposed to move in the question. It seems to me that the Sultan would not have contemplated an expedition had it not been suggested to him, or rather demanded of him, in consequence of the Spanish incident. It is true that the proposed action of the Moorish Government goes beyond what the Spanish Government requested, and it is for this reason that I submit a friendly suggestion would be opportune. As I reported in my despatch No. 132 of the 16th September, at the first meeting of the Diplomatic Body, I suggested that the Sultan might deem it possible to obtain by methods other than an expedition the release of the captives, and I inquired of M. de Ojeda whether his Government would in that case give the Sultan liberty to act in his own manner. The Spanish Minister informed us, however, that his Government would insist on an expedition being sent. His demands to that end have been interpreted very widely by the Moorish Government; and as an opportunity has been afforded by the note of the Sultan's deputy to explain exactly the limits within which we understood the expedition was to operate, it is to be regretted that the Sultan is left to embark on a course which may be dangerous to his authority, and which, to my mind, is not acleulated to achieve the results desired by the Spanish Government.



As I have mentioned above, there is to be another meeting of the Diplomatic Body to examine some points left over for consideration; and perhaps my colleagues may have other views on that occasion. The French Minister told me he had telegraphed to his Government for instructions, and possibly others of my colleagues have done likewise. I will, therefore, report again to your Lordship.

I may add that it has been suggested to me by the German Chargé d'Affaires that it is possible the Sultan has given the expedition so sweeping a mandate in the hope that the Representatives will make some protest against it being put into execution, and thus absolve him from carrying out his engagements with the Spanish Government. This interpretation has some plausibility, but I have no information to confirm it. In any case, the question is undoubtedly complicated by the Spanish incident and the Spanish demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 296.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson*

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 29, 1901.

SPANISH captives.

I have received your despatch No. 152 of the 19th ultimo, reporting what passed at a meeting of the Diplomatic Body with reference to the projected Moorish expedition. Whatever may be the decision eventually arrived at by your colleagues, I request you to have a message conveyed to the Sultan in the sense indicated in my telegram No. 24 of the 17th instant.

---

No. 297.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 30, 1901.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 25 of the 29th instant.

A message for the Sultan had already been communicated by me to my private channel, but I had requested that he should wait till I wrote again before delivering it. Its communication will now be authorized.

Until I receive your Lordship's approval, I am retaining the note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, copy of which is inclosed in my despatch No. 155. Its terms do not, I think, conflict with my message, and I should perhaps join my colleagues who are making a similar communication.

I find none of the latter, though they all seem alive to the possible risks of the expedition, disposed to endeavour to limit its action.

---

No. 298.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 106.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 152 of the 19th instant, reporting the views of the Diplomatic Body at Tangier on the projected expedition against the mountain tribes.

I approve the language held by you to your colleagues, as recorded in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 299.

*Post Office to Foreign Office*—(*Received October* 31.)

Sir, *General Post Office, October* 30, 1901.

I AM directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, inclosing a copy of a further despatch from Sir A. Nicolson relative to the proposed establishment of telegraphic communication between the various ports on the coast of Morocco southward of Tangier.

The Postmaster-General's suggestion that the Eastern Telegraph Company should be made acquainted with the situation was intended more particularly to meet the possibility of the construction of the line by France instead of by Germany, in case the negotiations which were being carried on with the latter country should prove unsuccessful.

The Postmaster-General is hardly in a position to express an opinion on the desirability of the arrangement now proposed, under which the line would be managed by the Moorish Government and worked by operators of various nationalities; but he cannot but think that a line worked by the Eastern Telegraph Company, whose principal employés are usually British subjects, would be more in the interests of this country than a line under divided control.

Moreover, he would point out that the desired freedom from interruption would probably be obtained even more completely by means of a system of cables than by underground land lines, and in all likelihood the expense involved would not be much greater.

I am, &c.
(Signed) G. H. MURRAY.

---

No. 300.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 25, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit an interesting Memorandum by Mr. White of a conversation he had with Muley Ali, one of the Wazan Shereefs, who has recently been on a tour in little known districts of the Upper Muluya Valley.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 300.

*Memorandum by Mr. White.*

THE Shereef Mulai Ali of Wazan spent several months last summer exploring the Upper Muluya Valley and neighbouring tribes with a Frenchman who had been sent by his Government to map those districts, he having previously explored and mapped the Sûs and Rif Provinces for the large scale Secret Map of Morocco, which is being prepared at the French War Office, in which a distinction is drawn between places of which the position has been verified and those which are only known from reports.

Mulai Ali informed me that they had explored the Beni M'guild, Ait Yusi, Beni Warain, Ait Aisha, Ait Isdig, and other districts up to within three days' journey of Tafilelt; they had ascended Jebel Ayashi,* which they found to be 15,420 feet high: this is said to be the highest peak of the Atlas, though less snow-covered than some of the peaks they saw.

Owing to the suspicious nature of the people they were amongst they had to exercise great caution in taking observations, and had frequently to wait till a late hour before they could venture to take astronomical observations. The Shereef gave the tribesmen near the Muluya a bad character for being particularly dangerous and suspicious of strangers.

No Wazan Shereef had visited those districts since the time of his grandfather,

* Jebel Ajashin (*cf.* the War Office Intelligence Division Map No. 746).



and, though treated with great respect when his identity was known, some incredulity was at times shown as to his really being a Wazan Shereef. At one place he was thought to be Sultan Mulai Abdelaziz. On two occasions he was fired at, being mistaken for one of a hostile tribe.

The Frenchman travelled as one of his muleteers, and veiled his defective knowledge of the language by feigning to be half-witted.

The tribes are all armed with rifles, and they evidently have no lack of ammunition as they make good powder themselves, and they reload their cartridge cases. Those bordering the Muluya are principally armed with Remingtons, which they get through Melilla, and also some Wendl and a Belgian rifle, of which the Shereef had forgotten the name, whereas the tribes lying more to the west have rifles of the Martini type, drawn from Fez. The Ait Atta tribe also had rifles, but they found in their recent encounters with the French that they got jammed with the sand, and they were consequently giving them up in favour of their own flint-locks, which they are very skilled at making. They obtain their iron from the mountains, parts of which the Shereef described as being "all iron," and make guns of small calibre which carry a ball accurately up to a range of 300 yards.

The Shereef described the country as being abundantly supplied with water; they found a large and deep lake at Beni M'guild and generally well cultivated, but at places quite desert, nothing growing except wild thyme and a few similar plants. Beni Warain is very rough and mountainous, and is destitute of roads, the people having few horses; sheep and goats appeared to be plentiful in most parts, and oxen in the richer districts. The principal crops grown were barley and maize. Many places, especially the lower slopes of the mountains, were well wooded, cedars, oaks of two kinds, walnuts, &c., being plentiful. The cedars grew to a great size, and were frequently of very large girth; their timber is taken to Fez and Mequinez.

Amongst other wild animals there are lions and panthers or leopards in those regions, also three species of gazelles and moufflons, but the Shereef does not appear to have made much research in that direction.

The Muluya is first known by that name at Kasbi-es-Shorfa, where it is already a river of considerable size; they followed its course to a considerable distance above that point. Its waters are very turbid, probably owing to its rapid currents, as the fall is considerable. At places it is deep, but they were able to ford it at several points; its volume is much increased at the season of the melting of the snows.

---

No. 301.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 26, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 152 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that a meeting of the Diplomatic Body was held this morning to discuss the tenour of the reply which should be sent to the Circular of Cid Mohammed Torres in regard to the projected expedition against the mountain tribes.

I had previously ascertained that my principal colleagues were still opposed to intimating to the Moorish Government that the proposed enterprise was a somewhat hazardous one, and I therefore did not recur at the meeting to that special point.

It was eventually decided to write to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting some more specific information as to which tribes and districts were to be attacked, and at the same time reserving the right to claim damages for any injuries which might be caused to the property of foreigners. I beg leave to inclose copy of the note which I have addressed to Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, which I trust will meet with your Lordship's approval. The notes from my colleagues will be in similar terms.

The amount of British interests or property in charge of the tribes must be very limited, but it is possible that if the expedition is set in movement its operations will not be confined to the mountains.

If the expedition acts seriously against the mountain tribes, and if the latter combine to resist it, there is every probability, judging from what I hear of its composition, that it will meet with reverses. If, on the other hand, it confines itself to

a half-hearted demonstration against the mountain tribes, and to attacking less dangerou opponents, the authority of the Sultan will not be enhanced, and the proposed objects of the expedition will not be attained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 301.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.*

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, October* 26, 1901.

CID MOHAMMED TORRES addressed a note to me on the 1st Rajab, 1319 (15th October, 1901), stating that it was the intention of the Sultan to send an expedition to punish the hill tribes for various misdeeds, and requesting me to warn my nationals of this intention, so that they may withdraw any interests they may have in the hands of these tribes within a period of one month from the 1st Rajab.

I have no objection to informing my nationals of the project which the Sultan has in view, so that they may take such precautions as they may think fit for protecting, so far as is in their power, any interests they may have in the hands of the tribes; but before issuing the desired Notification, it is necessary that I should be informed which tribes it is proposed to punish, and what districts the expedition will traverse. Until I receive specific and precise information on those points, your Excellency will understand that I am not in a position to bring the matter to the knowledge of my nationals. At the same time, I wish to reserve all rights of subsequently presenting properly authenticated claims for any loss or damage which the property of my nationals may suffer on account of the movements or action of the expeditionary force.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 302.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 111. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 5, 1901.

I REFERRED to His Majesty's Postmaster-General your despatch No. 120 of the 27th August last relative to the telegraph lines on the Moorish coast. I transmit herewith, for your information, copies of the subsequent correspondence with the Post Office on this subject,* and I request that you will furnish me with your opinion as to whether, under the circumstances, it would be advisable to make any communication to the Eastern Telegraph Company at the present juncture.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 303.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November* 6, 1901.

SPANISH captives.

With reference to your despatch No. 155 of the 26th October, and my telegram No. 25 of the 29th October, there is no objection to your sending the note to Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs as proposed.

---

* Nos. 255, 282, and 299.



No. 304.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 113.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 6, 1901.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 148 of the 17th ultimo, reporting a conversation with the Spanish Minister at Tangier relative to the extent of the demands made by the Spanish Government on that of the Sultan in connection with the question of the release of the Spanish captives.

I approve the language held by you to M. de Ojéda as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 305.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November* 9.)

(No. 156. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 30, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a message which I have requested should be conveyed privately to the Sultan, recommending caution in his action against the mountain tribes. I trust that this message will meet with your Lordship's approval. I have given it a private character, and asked that it should be communicated verbally.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 305.

*Message from Sir A. Nicolson to His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan.*

THE objects for which I understand the Spanish Government requested the dispatch of the expedition were to endeavour to obtain the release of the captives and the punishment of those who originally abducted them at Arzila. From Torres' Circular it would appear that the Moorish Government wish to go considerably beyond this, and to undertake what would be a campaign against all the mountain tribes inhabitating a fairly extensive district. This may develop into a very serious enterprise, and if the tribes coalesce to offer resistance an attack on them in their fastnesses might not be successful. I have, of course, no desire to hamper in any way any steps which may help towards obtaining the release of the captives, and those who originally carried them off should undoubtedly be punished; but between this and a general campaign there is a wide difference, and I hope His Majesty will be very cautious in dealing with the tribes and not allow his expedition to act in a manner which may lead to a larger development than is desirable. It is not my wish to say anything that may discourage the dispatch of the expedition. This has been promised to the Spanish Government, and the promise must be carried out; but I do think it would be wise to limit its scope to what is compatible with the just demands of the Spanish Government and not extend it to the other objects mentioned in the Circular of Torres.

---

No. 306.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November* 9.)

(No. 157.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 31, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 144 of the 10th instant, Sir H. Maclean informs me that the Sultan lately inquired of him whether he had received any reply from me as to the retention of El Mehedi-el-Menebhi in his present office; and His

Majesty was told that I had no wish to interfere in the distribution of places, but that it seemed to me that it would be well to leave matters as they are, as frequent changes in the Government had a bad effect in the country. His Majesty was pleased to thank me for my advice, and to inform me that he would retain El Menebhi as Minister for War.

I understand, however, that El Menebhi is much limited and hampered in the discharge of the duties of his office, and that most of his functions have practically been transferred to Cid Fedal Gharnit. The favour granted by the Sultan to El Menebhi is, therefore, somewhat illusory; and the latter has sent me a message to explain that as he is without power he is not responsible for any of the acts of the Government. He is much embittered against his master, as he states that on the death of the late Grand Vizier, when conspiracies and even revolutions were in process of incubation, he and his men guarded the Sultan day and night and frustrated the aims of all disloyal intriguers. The Sultan then was full of gratitude and of solemn assurances of friendship, and His Majesty's present attitude, El Menebhi considers, is neither just nor chivalrous.

In the circumstances it may be as well that El Menebhi should, for the present, take no active part in public affairs, as the jealousies and suspicions against him may thereby gradually fade away; and it is possible that if he effaces himself as much as possible the Sultan may later feel the need of the zealous and intelligent services of his former favourite Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 307.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 158. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 1, 1901.

I AM informed that the Sultan's Deputy here has reported to the Court that the German Legation has requested that an arrangement concluded with El Mehedi-el-Menebhi at Berlin should be carried out. The Sultan's Deputy stated that by this arrangement M. Lüderitz, Dragoman of the German Legation, had been appointed to reside with the Court at Fez or Morocco city, as representative of the German Legation, and that the Moorish Government were to provide him with a suitable residence.

I am told that the Sultan is much annoyed with El Menebhi for having made such an arrangement without previous reference to him. His Majesty considers that the formal appointment of a foreign official to be attached to the Court is quite a new departure, and will certainly lead to similar requests from other Powers. His Majesty is of opinion that the question was too important for his Envoy to have decided without soliciting instructions.

I am told that a note is to be addressed to the German Legation stating that the Sultan quite understands that the proposed appointment of M. Lüderitz was suggested in a spirit of friendliness, and from a natural desire of the German Government to be kept informed of the course of events. The Sultan, the note will add, is most grateful for these good intentions, but he is at present not prepared to have official Representatives of foreign Legations at his Court, and that if he accepts the Mission of M. Lüderitz he will be compelled to admit Representatives from all the Legations. His Majesty therefore begs the German Government to appoint M. Lüderitz Consul either at Fez or Morocco city, and to waive the request that he should be named in any other capacity. As to the question of a residence, the note will state that the Moorish Government will assist M. Lüderitz in finding a suitable house, for which doubtless the German Government will pay the rent.

I think there must be some misunderstanding as to the nature of M. Lüderitz's appointment, as I gathered from the German Chargé d'Affaires that the above gentleman was to be named German Consul at Fez and Morocco city. He would doubtless fix his residence at whichever capital the Court might happen to be; but I understood that he was not to be formally attached to the Court. Any Power has a right to appoint Consuls at Fez or Morocco city, and I am not aware of any provision which prevents the same official from holding both appointments.



The French Minister recently spoke to me on the subject, and he evidently disapproved of the scheme, but I do not know if he has caused any observations to be made to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 308.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 2, 1901.

I AM informed that the Moorish Government have reorganized the expedition which the Sultan proposes to dispatch against the mountain tribes, and have made it more efficient. Six infantry regiments, each 500 strong, are to be sent, with three Gardner and three mountain guns. Eight hundred tribesmen are to go with the expedition from Morocco city, and after it has passed Rabat it is to be joined by many of the northern tribes. The regiments, I am told, are composed of able-bodied men, boys and old men having been eliminated.

The expedition appears likely to assume considerable proportions if the tribal levies join in the expected numbers, and if the desertions from the regiments are not numerous.

Muley Amrani, who commands it, is I am told an old man and not likely to run any unnecessary risks. Still I am of opinion that the despatch of the expedition is unfortunate, and I trust that the message I have sent to the Sultan may restrain its operations within the reasonable limits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 309.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 9.)

(No. 434.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 8, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 419 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article from yesterday's "Dépêche Colonlale" entitled "La question de Figuig," arguing from the terms of M. Revoil's speeches at Ain-Sefra and Djenien-ed-Dar that the French Government intend to bring Figuig, by peaceful means or otherwise, under French dominion without further delay.

The inference from M. Revoil's words is evidently far-fetched; but the opinion that France will seize the occasion offered by the meeting of the Franco-Moorish Boundary Commission to insist on a settlement of the Figuig question is one which is probably held very generally among the Colonial party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 309.

*Extract from the "Dépêche Coloniale" of November* 7, 1901.

NOUS croyons utile d'examiner plus à fond la question que nous avons effleurée dans nos précédents articles, de l'occupation de Figuig et de l'œuvre à accomplir par la Commission Franco-Marocaine, qui a reçu la mission de fixer sur place la délimitation de la frontière du Sud-Oranais et du Touat.

M. Revoil, Gouverneur-Général, dans son allocution d'Aïn-Sefra, a prononcé les paroles suivantes :—

"Bientôt, les Envoyés du Sultan se joindront à la mission Française dans laquelle nos officiers auront la large part que leur assigne leur expérience. Ensemble et sur place ils devront se rendre à la clarté de nos droits et à l'évidence des faits et ils appliqueront sans peine le texte précis d'un accord qui consacre notre situation

légitime sans porter atteinte à nos relations d'ancienne amitié avec l'Empire voisin. Nous pouvons donc envisager avec certitude une solution pacifique, mais soyez assurés que, en toutes circonstances, le Gouvernement de la République ne laissera jamais porter atteinte à la dignité de notre pays, ni à son bon droit."

Ailleurs, dans son discours de Djenien-ed-Dar, le Gouverneur-Général a spécifié :—

"Le récent arrangement, les sanctions que vont porter ici même les émissaires du Sultan, achèveront de donner à l'œuvre de la France son vrai caractère de pacification, de bon voisinage et non de conquête."

Pour nous, chez qui les habiletés du langage officiel font l'effet de casse-têtes Chinois, nous ne nous aventurerons pas à rechercher ce que ces réticences signifient et jusqu'à quel degré cette modération un peu bien humble et pas conforme à la forme d'expressions que devrait tenir la France, cache d'énergie et de volonté bien arrêtée d'en finir avec le cauchemar Figuiguien et avec les attentats journaliers dont nos travailleurs et nos soldats sont victimes.

Nous préférons attendre encore puisqu'il faut attendre toujours, qu'on ait consenti à rendre publics les termes de cet accord qui est, paraît-il, intervenu et dont nous ne pouvons faire le procès, ni la critique, puisque nous en ignorons le texte.

C'est un autre point que nous voulons aborder. Ce n'est pas le fond; c'est la forme de toute cette affaire. Il serait oiseux de discourir sur la valeur de l'arrangement lui-même quand nous commençons à craindre qu'il soit mort-né, qu'il ne voie jamais le jour de l'application, qu'il périsse même avant d'avoir été connu de personne, sinon des diplomates qui en furent les auteurs discrets.

Ainsi, il résulte des paroles officielles suscitées que bientôt des émissaires Marocains viendront. Très bien; mais qu'arrivera-t-il s'ils ne viennent pas? Quand viendront-ils? Quelle portée, quelle durée comporte-t-il, ce bientot-là? Combien de temps devons-nous les attendre? Ils n'ont guère l'air de se presser.

Et s'ils ne viennent pas d'ici un mois, deux mois, que ferons-nous? Irons-nous les chercher à Fez ou à Marrakesch? En attendant, devrons-nous subir impassiblement les impudentes provocations des Figuiguiens, leurs assassinats et tout ce qui s'ensuit? Et comment les châtierons-nous, les empêcherons-nous de tuer nos hommes, si nous n'allons pas à Figuig?

Eh bien! nous commençons à craindre fort que ces émissaires convenus qu'on s'était engagé à nous envoyer ne viendront pas du tout; et que s'ils viennent, ce sera pour faire tout le contraire de ce que l'on attend d'eux, d'après les intentions qu'on leur prête. Voici les raisons de nos appréhensions :—

C'est par le fait d'une illusion invétérée, et à laquelle on ne parvient pas à se soustraire, qu'on persiste à négocier avec des Musulmans exerçant des pouvoirs souverains, comme s'ils raisonnaient de la même façon que les Chrétiens Européens. On devrait essayer de se mettre dans leur peau pour arriver à les comprendre. N'oublions pas qu'en 1830, les Musulmans, pour expliquer la prise d'Alger par les Français, en sont venus à admettre que la France avait agi par ordre du Sultan de Constantinople pour punir la rébellion du Dey.

Demander au Maroc de venir lui-même à Figuig de bonne foi pour déclarer à la population Islamique qu'il a fait l'abandon d'une parcelle quelconque d'un territoire sur lequel il a prétendu exercer des droits de souveraineté, qu'il cède ce pays aux Chrétiens et recommande aux tribus de se soumettre à leur domination exécrée, c'est exiger de lui l'impossible.

Jamais il ne fera cela. Il ne peut pas le faire. Ce serait se déshonorer, se perdre à jamais dans l'esprit des Musulmans non seulement du Figuig, mais de l'Empire Marocain entier. Ce serait faire acte de renégat. Autant vaudrait signer la déchéance de sa dynastie.

Les Ambassadeurs Marocains ne nous disent pas, mais ils se disent en eux-mêmes intérieurement :—

"Ces 'roumis' sont fou. Que ne prennent-ils le pays puisqu'ils sont forts et que nous ne pouvons pas les en empêcher. S'ils sont plus forts que nous, c'est qu'Allah le veut ainsi, que son saint nom soit béni! Mais ils veulent que nous allions, nous, remettre le pays entre leurs mains, c'est nous forcer à faire ce qu'ils ne peuvent pas faire sans nous, pour enlever à Allah le pays où Allah règne."

Avant d'en arriver là, ils épuiseront la source des subterfuges et n'accepteront le fait que quand il sera accompli. Voilà ce dont il faut se rendre compte pour ne pas se perdre et se faire quelque peu moquer de soi dans d'interminables négociations dont les arrière-pensées sont cependant cousues de fil blanc.



Nous présumons volontiers que l'entente a été faite à Paris entre les Ambassadeurs Marocains et les diplômates Français, sauf les restrictions mentales avec lesquelles il faut toujours compter, que le Maroc, convaincu de son impuissance, a accepté la reconnaissance de la souveraineté de la France sur le Touat et même sur le territoire des Douï-Menia, dont le Figuig est la seule importante localité; même qu'il a attesté son intention sincère, quoique forcée, de n'y opposer aucune contradiction intentionnelle.

Mais, en dépit de ces hypothèses optimistes, nous ne parvenons pas à nous rassurer sar l'issue finale, sur l'aboutissement effectif du conflit, tant la difficulté de mettre les faits en parfait accord avec les intentions, nous paraît grande.

Ce n'est pas le tout que d'être certain que le Maroc veut faire ce qu'on lui demande; la question est aussi de savoir s'il le peut, s'il est en état de conformer ses actes à ses déterminations, si ses facultés d'autorité sont en rapport avec ses résolutions prises par résignation, si ses volontés seront obéies et ses instructions entendues.

Voilà précisément ce qui nous est contestable, sinon pour l'immédiat contingent, au moins pour l'avenir éventuel dont il nous paraît trop démontré, par les précédents, que le Sultan de Fez n'est ni le maître, ni le libre dispensateur.

Il faut se représenter l'extrême difficulté avec laquelle le Maghzen se trouve aux prises *vis-à-vis* des tribus indépendantes du Sud, relativement aux relations conciliatrices à établir avec la France.

Le Chérif ne maintient son prestige religieux respecté qu'en raison de la conviction enracinée chez les tribus qu'il est au fond notre ennemi irréconciliable, qu'il n'a rien tant à cœur que notre extermination et nourrit contre nous, malgré les apparences, une haine implacable et irrémissible.

Si l'idée contraire d'une entente complète et sincère du Chérif avec les "roumis" prévalait chez ce peuple, c'en serait fait de son titre de défenseur de l'Islam et le peu de pouvoir gouvernemental qui lui reste serait emporté au premier souffle d'insurrection suscité par quelque Marabout ambitieux ou fanatique. Il y a là un irréductible malentendu.

Le Chérif et ses Conseillers sont assez avisés, quelles que soient leurs secrètes pensées de derrière la tête, pour ne pas vouloir se brouiller avec leurs redoutables voisins, les Français, mais ils n'en sont pas moins contraints de laisser leurs sujets ombrageux dans la foi aveugle de la thèse contraire, qu'ils n'ont pas de plus grand désir dans le fond de leur âme que celui de notre anéantissement aussi prochain que radical.

Comment les hommes d'État Marocains parviendront-ils a dénouer ce difficile nœud gordien, nous ne savons, mais craignons fort qu'ils n'y réussissent qu'à demi, car ils n'ont pas, comme Alexandre, le fil de l'épée pour trancher cet inextricable imbroglio.

Les commentateurs du voyage du Djenien-ed-Dar opposeront à nos observations leurs impressions personnelles sur les incidents fort intéressants de cette expédition.

"Mais," diront-ils, "vous faites erreur. Aucun mot, aucune allusion portant indice que l'occupation de Figuig entre dans la pensée du Gouvernement, n'a été prononcé. Vous puisez cette notion dans votre imagination, mais elle est étrangére à l'ésprit du Gouverneur et rien ne doit laisser supposer qu'il ait eu l'intention de la sous-entendre."

Voilà ce que l'on peut dire. Voilà même ce que l'on écrit.

Aussi, n'est-ce pas du tout sur une déclaration formelle que nous nous fondons en estimant que l'occupation de Figuig est contenue implicitement dans la logique des faits, en dépit du silence du Gouverneur à son sujet.

M. Revoil ne pouvait pas dire: nous allons procéder à une occupation immédiate nécessairement retardée, sinon remise par l'absence des émissaires Marocains. Mais, s'il n'a pas dit: nous irons à Figuig, il n'a pas dit non plus: nous n'irons pas à Figuig. Il a dit: nous ferons ce qu'il faudra pour assurer la cessation des attentats. Et suivant nous, pour réaliser ce qu'il y a de promesses exécutoires dans ces discours, l'occupation de Figuig est indispensable.

Elle est la première condition indiquée pour couvrir notre territoire et nos oasis contre les dévastations des nomades pillards du désert. Elle est le seul moyen réalisable pour empêcher les assassinats dont notre chemin de fer est le théâtre, le seul procédé à suivre pour le fonctionnement d'une police practicable pour protéger notre longue ligne de voie ferrée militaire pour le moment, mais commerciale dans la suite, qui s'étendra d'Aïn-Sefra jusqu'à Igli pour être prolongée au moins jusqu'à

Beni-Abbés, destinée à défendre le Gourara et le Touat contre les invasions des Beraber et a desservir les besoins économiques de ces provinces.

La prise de Figuig n'est pas expressément exprimée dans les discours, mais elle résulte inévitablement des considérations qui sont la base des discours.

L'accomplissement du programme indiqué, la pacification, le commerce supposent la suppression de la caverne de bandits qui abrite et arme les malfaiteurs que nous avons à faire disparaître. On ne nous fera jamais croire que nous serons condamnés à perpétuité à entretenir des gares blindeés, à faire accompagner chaque train par des détachements armés, à poursuivre le châtiment de chaque crime par une expédition militaire dans les profondeurs du Tafilalet et du Dahra Marocain à la recherche de bandes de Aïth-Atta ou des Izdek.

Nous prendrons donc Figuig. Il le faudra bien. Les Figuiguiens eux-mêmes et leurs auxiliaires sauront bien nous y contraindre. Nous pouvons compter sur eux pour nous en fournir les raisons impérieuses, ne serait-ce qu'en prêtant l'asile de leurs palmiers à notre éminent Marabout Bou-Amama.

Est-il possible de concevoir une impudence pareille à celle de ce singulier personnage?

Il veut bien qu'on aille chez lui, que le Gouverneur-Général lui fasse l'honneur de sa visite. Il le recevra bien comme un Souverain le doit à un autre Souverain! Mais lui ne fera pas un pas pour venir à nous. Ce ne serait pas digne d'un illustre sectateur de Mahomet, tel que lui.

Et nous subissons cette humiliation, nous n'en exigeons pas une éclatante réparation. Vraiment, c'est exaspérant, c'est à ne pas y croire.

Nous ne parvenons pas à comprendre que les sentiments ressentis par tant de cœurs Français ne suscitent pas une explosion de colère et d'indignation.

---

## No. 310.

*Sir H. MacDonell to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 13.)

(No. 67.)

*Lisbon, November* 8, 1901.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 69 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a communication from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez giving an account of the ill-treatment of a Portuguese subject, I have the honour to report that, though cognizant of the case, I did not deem it necessary to lay it before your Lordship, inasmuch as the victim was inclined on his return to minimize the gravity of the assault, and the Portuguese Government showed no desire to give publicity to the incident or make it the subject of representation. Nevertheless, I learn that Senhor Mattoso Santos fully approved of the energetic action of Vice-Consul MacLeod, and has instructed the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier to support his action in concert with His Majesty's Minister.

Another case has, however, since arisen which the Portuguese Government appear inclined to treat more seriously. A merchant named Aaron Zagury, a naturalized Portuguese subject, and allied to some of the most respected and influential members of the Israelite community in Lisbon, residing at Cazablanca, was murdered at Boszckonga, where he had gone to collect some outstanding debts.

I took advantage of my interview with Senhor Mattoso Santos, at his Excellency's weekly reception of the Corps Diplomatique, to inquire as to the steps which this Government propose to take to redress this further outrage. Senhor Mattosa Santos informed me that he entirely agreed with the opinion of Sir A. Nicolson, as set forth in the above-mentioned despatch, that steps should be taken in the general interests of Europe to prevent—so far as it is possible—the constant recurrence of such incidents, and instructions have been sent to the Portuguese Chargé d'Affaires to consult with His Majesty's Minister at Tangier as to the best course to be pursued; if necessary, the Portuguese Government are prepared to dispatch a warship to the coast of Morocco if only as a demonstration.

Senhor Mattoso Santos has requested me to ask your Lordship to convey to Mr. MacLeod his high appreciation of the prompt and energetic action of that gentleman as representing Portuguese interests at Fez.



Since the above conversation, the report has appeared in the local papers that the murder of Zagury was due to a private vengeance, which, if correct, may perhaps alter the dispositions of the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

---

## No. 311.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 118. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, November* 13, 1901.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 156, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, I approve the terms of the message, which you have had conveyed privately to the Sultan, recommending caution in his action against the mountain tribes.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

## No. 312.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 160. Confidential.)

*Tangier, November* 6, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod relative to affairs on the Algerian Moorish frontier.

I inquired yesterday of the French Chargé d'Affaires whether he had any information as to the date on which the Moorish Commissinn was to leave Morocco city to arrange frontier matters with the Algerian authorities. M. de la Martinière said that M. St. René Taillandier, before his departure on leave, had urged the Moorish Government not to delay in dispatching the Commission in accordance with the arrangement made at Paris, but he had not heard if it had yet left.

I mentioned to M. de la Martinière that I had seen in the "Temps" that the Doni Menia and Ouled Djerir tribes had made their submission to M. Révoil during his Excellency's recent visit to their neighbourhood. These, I understood, were the two tribes who were to be afforded the opportunity of opting whether they should be under French or Moorish jurisdiction. M. de la Martinière said he had also read the report in the "Temps," but that he had no official information on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

### Inclosure in No. 312.

*Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 36. Confidential.)

*Fez, October* 30, 1901.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the following Report, dated the 15th October, on the present position in Tafilelt district, which has just reached me from a native correspondent.

The Report seems sensational and vague in many particulars, and has not, so far, been confirmed or contradicted by other news arriving here, so I forward it with all reserve, and mainly for comparison with such other news from the same region which you may be hearing.

Two Commissioners, both Shereefs, Mulai Mustafa and the Cadi-ben-Mohammed of Fez, arrived recently in Tafilelt, accompanied by the deputation of Tafilelt people who had been at the Court, for the purpose of inducing the tribes to agree to a delimitation of the frontier with the French.

The proposal, however, was so ill-received, and the people's attitude so menacing

that the Commissioners fled to sanctuary, the one at Abu Amun and the other at Mdaghra.

The tribesmen, Arabs as well as Berbers, declared they would listen to no proposal or negotiation about a frontier unless the French first of all retired to the positions they occupied before their recent advances.

The tribes said, further, that on this point they were ready to fight either the French or "those who gave such orders about a frontier," that is to say, of course, the Moorish Government.

The Beni Hamed tribesmen have possessed themselves forcibly of cannons and repeating rifles (numbers not stated) in charge of a Moorish Kaïd, whose name is not mentioned.

The Berbers have divided themselves into four parties for the purpose of attacking the French convoys.

The Sheikh of Kenadsa, on behalf of the French,* tried to negotiate a sort of truce with Mulai Ershid—the Sultan's ordinary representative in Tafilelt—for four years or even one year, but Mulai Ershid, in fear of the tribesmen, would not listen to the proposal.

Kaïd Maclani Al Glawi, who was at Rissani and in command of Sultan's troops in Tafilelt district, has been ordered to return to his own country.

Moorish troops are stationed at Taghermats under Kaïd Al Mati and Kaïd-el-Mehjûb, and some at Beni Mohammed Kasbah Sidi Malek and Kasbah Mulai Muslain.

Some Moorish troops, including some artillery, are also at Abu Amun.

The French troops are few, consisting only of about 1,200 men in all, stationed in bodies of 400 each at Beni Gumi, Igli, and Beni Abbas.

Bu Amama "entered French territory" on the 28th September, though whether as a visitor, resident, prisoner, or for what purpose, or whether or not he has returned, my correspondent does not say.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

---

No. 313.

*Sir A. Nicholson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 19).

(No. 54. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 19, 1901.

MY telegram No. 53 of the 30th ultimo:

The expedition has been ordered by the Sultan to strictly limit their efforts to obtaining the arrest of those who originally abducted the captives, and the release of the latter. There is no intention, His Majesty states, of waging war against the mountain tribes, and the object of the expedition will have been fulfilled if they surrender the guilty parties and captives.

The Sultan entirely concurs with advice given, and is most grateful for it. He has no wish to employ violence.

---

No. 314.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 119.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1901.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 142 of the 8th ultimo, I transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Lisbon,† relative to the assault on Portuguese subjects in Morocco.

* This seems worth noting, for, if true, it would seem to indicate that the Kenadsa people have submitted themselves to the French, or at least are adopting a totally different position to them from that of the resistance hitherto reported.—J. M. M.

† No. 310.



I request that you will convey to Mr. Macleod, as desired, the expression of Senhor Maltoso Santos' high appreciation of his prompt and energetic action in support of Portuguese interests at Fez.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 315.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 23.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 11, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit an extract from the "Réveil du Maroc," reporting the allocution of the Governor-General of Algeria to the Chiefs of the Doui Menia tribe,* which I think is of interest, as it states, in no ambiguous terms, the intention to extend the French frontier to the River Ghir. A speech which M. Révoil made at a banquet the same evening is also appended.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 316.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received November* 23.)

No. 163. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 14, 1901.

THE Spanish Minister told me this morning that he was proceeding next week to Madrid, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs desired to consult with him on several questions, M. de Ojeda said that he intended to take the opportunity of suggesting to the Duke of Almodovar that overtures should be made to the Moorish Government for ceding Cape Juby to Spain in lieu of Ifni. He added that he was not in possession of the views of the present Spanish Government on the subject, but he thought that Cape Juby would be of more advantage to Spain than Ifni, owing to its closer proximity to the Canaries, and also because he was afraid lest it should be occupied by some other Power. M. de Ojeda desired me to acquaint your Lordship with his intention, as should his Government approve of his proposal, it would be of great assistance to him in negotiating with the Moorish Government if he were in a position to state that His Majesty's Government were willing that Cape Juby should be ceded to Spain.

I told M. de Ojeda that I would report the matter to your Lordship, but that, so far as I could recollect, when the question was mooted last year, it was considered that the best course would be for the Spanish and Moorish Governments to come to an understanding before His Majesty's Government were consulted as to their readiness to waive the rights secured to them under the Cape Juby arrangement.

M. de Ojeda replied that his hands would be much strengthened, in the event of negotiations being opened, if he were first assured of the consent of His Majesty's Government, and he would be grateful if your Lordship's views were communicated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid.

The course suggested by M. de Ojeda appears to me to be an unusual one, and I would submit, with all respect, that having regard to what occurred last year in respect to the Spanish proposals, the first step should be taken by the two primarily interested Governments in coming to an understanding with each other. I have no information as to what view the Sultan is now likely to take in regard to giving Cape Juby in place of Ifni. I should doubt if the proposal would seem to him an acceptable one. Neither the Spanish nor the Moorish authorities have hitherto shown any disposition to carry out the arrangement made early last year in regard to Ifni, and I was under the impression that the question would not be revived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

* Not printed.

No 317.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 23.)*

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 15, 1901.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 111 of the 5th instant, relative to telegraph lines on the Moorish Coast. I have heard nothing further from the Moorish Court as to the intention to offer to public tender the underground telegraph lines down the coast; and the Sultan's Deputy here has received no orders on the subject. It would appear as if the Moorish Government had abandoned the project; and I have taken no steps to recall it to their recollection. I would suggest that no communication be made to the Eastern Telegraph Company until the matter is revived by the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 318.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 27.)*

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 27, 1901.*

SULTAN tells me he will be at Rabat within a month. His Majesty left Morocco city on the 21st instant.

The Moorish Mission for arranging matters relating to frontier will leave for Algeria in a day or two in a French cruiser. The Commission arrived here yesterday.

---

No. 319.

*Foreign Office to Post Office.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 28, 1901.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, relative to the proposed telegraphic communication between ports on the coast of Morocco.

I am to inform you that after consultation with His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that it will not be desirable to make any communication on this subject to the Eastern Telegraph Company for the present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

---

No. 320.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 30, 1901.*

ACCORDING to a report in a Madrid newspaper, there has been an outbreak and an attack on the British Vice-Consulate at Tetuan.

Have you any information on this subject?

---



No. 321.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 30.)*

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 30, 1901.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 27 of to-day.

Having come to Tetuan for the purpose of paying their respects to the new Governor, a certain mountain tribe, when leaving, amused themselves by firing blank cartridges at the doors of some houses, including the British Vice-Consulate. The Vice-Consul mentioned the matter to the Governor, but as he was aware that there was no malice, he made no formal complaint.

The tribe also, I believe, broke with stones some windows of the Spanish Vice-Consulate and looted some shops, and carried off some Moorish women it is said.

The tribesmen have now returned to their respective homes.

---

No. 322.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 2)*

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 19, 1901.*

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that, so far as he has been able to ascertain, the Conference which the Governor-General of Algeria had with the Chiefs of the Doui Menia and Ouled Djerir has practically led to the submission of those tribes to French rule. Mr. MacLeod states that the tribesmen round Igli, the Ghenanma to the west, as well as those to the east, have enlisted in considerable numbers in the Algerian forces, and that those who have become "Spahis" now patrol the road between Igli and Tuat under French officers. He further reports that a brisk trade has sprung up between Tafilelt and Igli, the Doui Menia acting as middlemen. The French are, it is said, giving high prices for sheep, goats, and country produce, paying about quadruple the ordinary market rates.

High wages to workmen on the railway, easy and profitable terms of enlistment in the French forces, and an attractive and lucrative market, will offer such inducements to the tribes in the vicinity of the frontier that they will all be eager to share in the benefits, and will wish to encourage the spread of French influence and jurisdiction.

The Sultan has already become acquainted with the results of M. Révoil's recent visit to the frontier, and has ordered the Moorish Commission which is to arrange frontier matters conjointly with the French authorities to hasten their departure from Morocco city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 323.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 2.)*

(No. 166. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 20, 1901.*

I AM confidentially informed that the Sultan desires to raise a loan in Europe, and to place it in London, Berlin, and Paris. The proceeds of the loan are chiefly to be devoted to public works, and His Majesty wishes to construct a railway from Morocco city to Rabat viâ Casablanca, and thence to Fez and the Algerian frontier. The Sultan contemplates intrusting the construction of the section from Morocco city to Rabat to British contractors, from Rabat to Mequinez and Fez to French, and from Fez to the Algerian frontier to German contractors.

The Sultan is also of opinion that some of the proceeds of the loan will have to be devoted to administrative expenses. His Majesty has explained to me that he anticipates that the State revenue will, for a year or two, be less than in former years, while the expenditure will be increased. It will take some little time, the Sultan considers, for the machinery of the new system of taxation to work smoothly, and he is anxious

that the collection of taxes should, in the immediate future, be undertaken in a generous and lenient spirit, as he wishes the people to have an opportunity of recovering from the extortions to which they had been subjected by the provincial authorities. The State expenditure will, on the other hand, in future be increased, as all officials, central and provincial, of all categories, are to receive fixed and adequate salaries.

On the subject of the railways and the loan, the Sultan states he wishes to speak to me when I meet him at Rabat. I have not been informed of the amount of the loan the Sultan desires to raise, but if it is to meet the considerable undertakings he mentions a large sum would be required, the interest on which would absorb, I should presume, the greater part of the customs revenues, the only sound guarantees which could be offered.

The Sultan, in making the above communication to me, added that he had recently assembled the Governors and heads of the tribes who are at present at the Court, and informed them publicly that he was determined, with God's help, to carry out the reforms, and that those who were spreading the report that the projects of reforms were a mere passing whim, and would not be persistently and seriously pursued, were deceiving the people. He again impressed on those present that, if they illegally extorted money from their people, they would be most severely punished, and if they gave presents to any official at his Court, both the recipient and the donor would be visited with his grave displeasure.

It is to be hoped that His Majesty will continue in these praiseworthy intentions, and, from what I hear, he appears to be daily gaining in self-confidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 324.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 167.)
*Tangier, November* 23, 1901.

My Lord,

THE news of the departure of the expedition from Morocco city for the punishment of the mountain tribes has, according to the local press, caused some commotion among the latter; and as they learnt that the Mesmonda tribe in their neighbourhood would join the Sultan's forces, they thought it advisable to forestall this junction, and to crush the Mesmonda before the Moorish troops arrived. The Mesmonda horsemen seem to have fled on the approach of the mountaineers, and the latter destroyed the villages and carried off the women, cattle, and flocks. It is stated that the property of a German protected person suffered in this raid.

The local press also report that the Chiefs of ten or twelve mountain tribes met at the sanctuary of Moulai Abdslam, not far from Arzila, and came to an agreement to unite in resistance to the Sultan's forces.

I trust that the order which the Sultan has sent to the Chief of the expedition to limit his objects to obtaining, if possible, the release of the captives and the surrender of those who originally abducted them, will be made known to the mountain tribes, and that the latter will understand that there is no intention of waging a campaign against them. These are the wishes of His Majesty, and as the head of the expedition is a cautious and prudent man, I have hopes that he will carry out his master's orders with tact and circumspection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 325.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 2.)

(No. 168.)
*Tangier, November* 23, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the French cruiser "Du Chayla" arrived here this morning to convey the Moorish Frontier Commission to Algiers. The Commission left Morocco city on the 14th instant, and is daily expected here.



I am informed that the Sultan is much vexed at the speech made to the Chiefs of the Doui Menia tribe by M. Révoil during his recent visit to the frontier, and a copy of which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my despatch No. 162 of the 11th instant. His Majesty states that the French Government had stipulated that no emissaries should be sent to the Doui Menia and Ouled Djerir until the joint Commission arrived in their districts, so that the tribes should be in a position to exercise a free and unbiassed choice as to the jurisdiction under which they desired to place themselves. The Sultan adds that the Moorish Government observed this agreement faithfully, and took no steps to influence the tribes; and now it appears that the Governor-General of Algeria informed the tribes that an arrangement had been made with Morocco recognizing French jurisdiction up to the Wad Ghir.

His Majesty did not ask for any expression of opinion on my part, and so I have given none. So far as can be gathered from the French press, the submission of the Doui Menia seems to have been a voluntary act; but it is possible it was not quite impromptu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 326.

*The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 123. Confidential.)
*Foreign Office, December* 2, 1901.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 163, Confidential, of the 14th instant, reporting a conversation with the Spanish Minister at Tangier, relative to his intention of again approaching the Moorish Government on the subject of the proposed exchange of Ifni for Cape Juby.

I approve the language held by you to M. de Ojeda, as recorded in that despatch, and do not propose to send any instruction to His Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid with regard to the proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

---

No. 327.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 169.)
*Tangier, November* 27, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan left Morocco city on the 21st instant, and that he has informed me that he will be at Rabat within a month.

His Majesty has expressed a wish that I should pay him a visit at that port towards the end of January, and with your Lordship's permission I would propose to avail myself of the opportunity to present my letter of credence. In my despatch No. 34 of the 27th March I transmitted particulars and estimate of the cost of my Mission, and I would beg leave to refer your Lordship to that report, as I have no alterations to suggest.

I should be grateful if I were permitted to place myself in direct communication with the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station as to a man-of-war to convey me to Rabat and back.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 328.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 172.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 28, 1901.

THE latest information which I have received from the Court reports that El Mehedi-el-Menebhi has now been permitted by the Sultan to exercise all his functions as Minister of War, and that he is rapidly regaining the confidence and favour of His Majesty.

El Menebhi is, I am told, now admitted to frequent private audiences of the Sultan, and their relations appear to be on a very friendly footing. Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, the Foreign Minister, after a period of hesitation and expectancy, is now working cordially with El Menebhi, and the Grand Vizier Gharnit is losing much of his influence. What is considered by the public as a mark of the renewed confidence of the Sultan in his Minister for War, is the fact of his having intrusted to the care of the latter all his valuables until the Court reaches Fez. It is in that capital that El Menebhi will meet with some little difficulty, but if he conducts himself with tact and prudence his position need not necessarily be affected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 329.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 173. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 28, 1901.

THE head of the Moorish Frontier Commission, which is to leave for Algeria on the 30th instant, was good enough to give Mr. Irwin some information as to the frontier-lines which are in future to form the boundaries between Morocco and Algeria. The Moorish frontier is to run from Teniet-el-Sassi, up to which point it was demarcated under the Treaty of 1895, through Ich to Figuig. From thence it is to run westwards through Ci-ed-Dahar to the Wad Talsasa, a tributary of the Wad Ghir.

The French frontier is to run from Djenan Dar by Figuig and through Bekhar to the River Ghir. The intervening territory between these two lines is to be considered neutral ground, though the town of Kenadsa is to be allowed to opt under which jurisdiction it wishes to be placed. The results of the voting are, I should think, not very doubtful.

The above-mentioned places will be found in the map of the Military Intelligence Division of 1889.

Your Lordship will observe that this arrangement will give to Algeria a considerable additional territory, and will include the Doui Menia and Ouled Djerir tribes, as, presumably, the Wad Ghir will form the boundary from the junction of the Wad Bekhar southwards to Igli.

In regard to the other points which may have been arranged at Paris the Moorish Commissioner was indisposed to give any information, but they may very probably deal with water, pasturage, and police questions of no general interest.

Notwithstanding the fact that the territorial advantages seem to have been gained by France, still it is a matter of satisfaction that some frontier has been laid down, a measure to which the French authorities, prior to the dispatch of the recent Missions to Europe, were apparently strongly opposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 330.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 16.)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 10, 1901.

IN the event of your Lordship approving my proceeding to Rabat next month to present my new credentials, I would respectfully request permission to take with me the following staff:—

Mr. Irwin, Interpreter; Mr. Goschen, Honorary Attaché; a military officer; and Mr. Walter B. Harris.

I have submitted the name of the last gentleman, as he was of great service to me during my former Mission, and the Sultan has also expressed a desire that he should accompany me on the present occasion. I do not propose that Mr. Harris should be employed on any clerical work, but I should be glad to utilize his knowledge of Arabic and of the country in other ways. He would naturally not be considered as a member of the Chancery, or have cognizance of any official or confidential matters.

I would also beg leave to ask permission to request Mr. Maclean, His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, to come to Rabat during my visit, as his knowledge of the trade and resources of this country might, I think, be of service.

I understand that the Sultan desires that a military officer should accompany the Mission. Captain James, of the Military Intelligence Department, was attached to the Moorish Embassy in London, and the Special Envoy expressed a hope that he would be permitted to come with me when I visited the Sultan.

I do not know whether your Lordship or the military authorities would consider it convenient that this officer should come from England for the purpose. Personally, I should be very glad to see him on the staff. If his appointment were not possible, I could doubtless obtain the services of an officer from the garrison at Gibraltar.

I would propose to leave Mr. E. Bristow here for the purpose of forwarding telegrams and despatches. I trust that my absence from Tangier will not exceed a fortnight, and, as Rabat is within a comparatively easy distance, I would submit that Mr. Bristow would be able to fulfil the duties of forwarding the communications to and from your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 331.

*Consul-General Newton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 17.)

(No. 7. Private and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Algiers, December* 13, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to make a quotation from a private letter received from the Vice-Consul at Oran which, in the present unsettled state of the Morocco frontier, may be of interest to your Lordship:—

"I have just heard from a reliable source that the French have established posts as far as 200 kilom. to the south-west of Figuig, thus almost isolating it. There is no doubt in my mind but that the Moorish Mission now about to go south for the delimitation of the frontier will find themselves face to face with a *fait accompli*, and have to swallow the pill, or rather accept the position as they find it. There have been great quantities of military stores sent south lately, so much so that the railway material of the Franco-Algerian line has been almost, if not entirely, absorbed by it, and the colonists from Mascara and Saida have been unable to procure trucks for the conveyance of their products for love or money."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HAY NEWTON.

---

No. 332.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 174.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 6, 1901.

THE British Vice-Consul at Rabat reports that the expedition, which is on its march in connection with the release of the Spanish captives, left the neighbourhood of that town on the 2nd instant.

M. Neroutsos estimates the number of the force at 2,500, of whom 500 are cavalry. If this estimate be correct, the desertions do not appear to have been so numerous as was reported.

The troops had some warm clothing served out to them at Rabat, and those who have not rifles are to be supplied with arms when they reach Alkazar.

There are six guns with the expedition; four on wheeled carriages and two which are carried on camels.

M. Neroutsos adds that an influential Wazzan Shereef accompanies the expedition with the object, he states, of facilitating the negotiations for the release of the captives. This would indicate that the orders of the Sultan to abstain from a campaign against the mountain tribes are to be carried out.

No information, so far as I am aware, has of late been received as to the whereabouts or fate of the captives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 333.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 19.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 6, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan, reporting the incidents which occurred during the recent visit of the Beni Hassan. The Spanish Legation have sent one of their members to Tetuan to inquire into the attack on the Spanish Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure in No. 333.

*Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Tetuan, December* 4, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Beni Hassan tribe sent a deputation to salute the new Governor on the 25th ultimo.

The number of this deputation has been variously estimated up to 2,000, but as I was not in the square when they arrived, I was unable to make an estimate of my own.

These people are said to have done much damage on their way to and from the town, and to have committed many robberies, &c.

On entering the town they amused themselves by firing blank charges at all the gates and doors they passed, and my gate came in for its share.

As, however, they did not know my gate from any other, I did not consider it a cause of formal complaint, but called on the Governor to point out to him how dangerous this was, and to request him in the future, if any large numbers of countrymen were coming into the town, to place soldiers about to keep order and prevent such behaviour. I told him I was then only speaking on behalf of the people generally, but that if these people had known it was my gate they were firing at it would have been a very serious matter.

I have been obliged to send Ali-el-Khyyati, Mrs. Alvarey's cattle-keeper of Beni



Housmar to the Governor, as he complained of being robbed of 40 dollars and thirty-five fowls by the Beni Hassan people. The Governor had particulars of the claim taken down, and promised attention to it.

The Spanish Consul and his family were on a low roof to see the arrival of the Beni Hassan; they were obliged to retire, as these people stoned them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

---

No. 334.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 11, 1901.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 176 of the 6th instant, I am informed that the Delegate dispatched by the Spanish Legation to Tetuan has returned, and has reported that the whole incident was much exaggerated. Some of the unruly mountaineers did throw stones at the Spanish Consulate, and one or two of the inmates were struck.

The Governor apologized for this misconduct, and the question may be considered closed, as I understand that the Spanish authorities do not intend to make any representations on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 335.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 179.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 15, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting a visit paid to that town by the Sultan and giving an account of some audiences which Mr. Maclean had the honour of having of His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 335.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 136.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, December* 7, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan, accompanied by His Majesty's principal officers of State, Kaïd Sir Henry Maclean, and a large escort of cavalry, rode into Dar-al-Baida this morning at 9 o'clock from Fedalah.

His Majesty first visited the sanctuary of the Patron Saint of the town, and then passed through all the streets, without a guide, and closely examined the new Custom-house in course of erection. His Majesty then left the town and partook of luncheon under a green and red tent pitched on a sand hill overlooking the sea.

Being the doyen of the local Consular Body, it fell to me, on behalf of my colleagues, to ascertain from the Governor of Dar-al-Baida whether His Majesty would wish to receive us. The Sultan sent a gracious consent.

My colleagues in uniform collected at my house, and, accompanied by his Excellency the Governor and an imposing escort, we walked out in procession. We were introduced by the Master of the Ceremonies and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and after reading a short speech, I had the honour of presenting each of my colleagues. His Majesty was pleased to make a most gracious reply, stating that he was not only anxious for the commercial prosperity of the country, but also for the political interests of its people, and

concluded by requesting that I should transmit to him through his Minister a written copy of my short speech.

His Majesty's manner was dignified, gentle, and cordial, and my colleagues were charmed, all having received the impression that His Majesty had treated them with particular favour.

The Sultan has made a most happy impression on the people, although there are many Fez Moors in the town who did not approve of the very evident interest His Majesty took in all he saw; these people would have preferred the old type of Oriental Emperor, who kept an immovable countenance and showed no interest in anything.

His Majesty received a most enthusiastic reception and was evidently very pleased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 335.

*Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.*

(No. 137. Confidential.)

*Dar-al-Baida, December* 9, 1901.

Sir,

ON Saturday, when the Sultan was here, my brother invited me and my family out to camp at Fedalah, where we stayed until this morning (Monday). His Shereefian Majesty sent for me repeatedly, and would not allow me to leave the camp until he himself left.

At every one of the audiences all the other Englishmen in camp were also present, and on one occasion two German gentlemen belonging to the local Consulate. I learnt a great deal from His Majesty's conversations and during my visit to the camp.

There is no doubt that at the present time Mehedi-el-Menebhi is in great favour, although I do not think that he is altogether trusted. Then I think Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is most highly thought of. Si Emfadel Gharnit fills the office of Grand Vizier and has a certain amount of influence over the Governors and officials of the country; but His Majesty, I gathered, dislikes and distrusts him, and has very little to say to him.

I am informed on reliable authority that during the Sultan's march the provincial Governors first offered large money presents to El Menebhi, who refused them, and then they took them to Gharnit, with a different result.

Your Excellency will be most interested in my impressions of the Sultan. His Majesty is still very young—I should think about 22. Several traits in His Majesty's temperament are very un-Oriental. His Majesty has no meanness in his character; he knows that he has a great deal to learn and is eager to learn it. He appears to have no prejudices, but has opinions which surprise one. For example, His Majesty was asking for a reason of the peculiar dress of a Spanish padre, and this led to my brother describing how certain monks did penance and flagellated themselves with cords; thereupon His Majesty expressed his disapproval of such conduct, and said that amongst his people, too, there were men who set themselves above their fellows as being exceptionally religious. "That is not true goodness; those men who make a parade of goodness are not to be trusted; I like men who are really good, but think themselves as wicked as their fellows." I repeat this kind of incident merely to illustrate the subject of my despatch.

His Majesty was dressed in breeches and field boots, but wore over all the Moorish jellaba with hood. His tent was pitched on a rocky headland jutting out into the sea. There was a canvas screen right across the tongue of land, on which were three brass field-pieces. The Sultan passed his time in loading and firing these guns himself, aiming at marks in the sea. It requires some nerve for an amateur to go through this operation without assistance. His Majesty indulges in this kind of amusement while all the Court officials are resting in their tents, sleeping or eating. That is typical of the difference between him and them; he possesses any amount of energy; His Majesty is never idle, and his recreations are all wholesome. I do not think that he works hard enough over State affairs, and I believe this is because he has a contempt for his advisers and officials.

He knows all their tricks and vices; His Majesty told me this repeatedly. He feels the state of affairs very keenly, and believes that it will take years of patience before he can bring about a salutary change.



There is no doubt in my mind that His Majesty means to go his own way, and this will not be in the direction followed by his fathers. His Majesty is very intelligent and observant, and nothing escapes his eyes. He occasionally uses English expressions, and informed me that he had learnt them principally while studying photography. Over and over again His Majesty expressed a desire to visit Europe and especially England. His Majesty's energy will lead to great changes in the country, and the difficulty will be to guide it in the right direction. He is bent on progress, is favourable to European ideas, and keen on the improvement of the condition of the people.

It is to be hoped that he will receive honest guidance from men who are not self-seeking.

There is a danger in His Majesty pursuing his objects at too fast a pace, but it would be a great pity if advantage were not taken of His Majesty's zeal to give Morocco such a bound forward that it will be impossible for the country ever to return to its present indescribable darkness.

After bidding me farewell the Sultan recalled me once more and charged me to convey to your Excellency an expression of His Majesty's great esteem and friendship and his impatience to see you soon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

P.S.—I have omitted to mention that, although the Sultan is the most liberal-minded Moor I have ever met, yet his Shereefian Majesty is very correct in all religious observances and is a strict Moslem.

A. M.

---

No. 336.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 180.)

*Tangier, December* 15, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Sultan arrived at Rabat on the 12th instant, his journey from Morocco City having been somewhat delayed on account of heavy rains.

I am informed that the Sultan was well received by the people on the route, and was careful in ascertaining their condition and wants. His Majesty had given strict orders that all provisions for his camp were to be paid for, and although these instructions were not perhaps very strictly and generally obeyed, still the passage of the camp and army was less burdensome to the people than has been the case on previous occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 337.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 182. Confidential.)

*Tangier, December* 17, 1901.

My Lord,

THIS morning I called on the Spanish Minister and inquired of him if he were at liberty to give me any information as to the results of his recent visit to Madrid.

M. de Ojeda replied that he would be happy to speak quite frankly to me on the subject. In the first place, the French Government were pertinaciously urging his Government to come to an understanding with them on the Morocco question; and by the Morocco question they did not mean any discussion in regard to territorial acquisitions or arrangements on the south-eastern frontier, but the treatment of the far more important problem of the situation in the Straits and on the northern littoral of Morocco. His Government were, M. de Ojeda added, dealing cautiously with

these proposals, and had intimated that they could come to no understanding unless England was also a party to the arrangement. The French Government were, nevertheless, very persistent, and were urging that many advantages would accrue to Spain were she to accept the proposals made to her.

I observed that all this appeared to me to be very vague, and that I understood that France professed that she was honestly desirous of maintaining the *status quo*, and, indeed, that the settlement of a frontier between Morocco and Algeria was an earnest of her sincerity in that respect.

M. de Ojeda said that he did not doubt that France had no wish to disturb the *status quo* in Morocco at present, but it was self evident that in the event of any hostilities breaking out between European Powers, and especially between France and England, the *status quo* would of necessity cease to exist. It was to provide for this eventuality that France was desirous of coming to an understanding with Spain, and securing, he would not say the assistance, as his country was too weak to afford substantial material help, but the benevolent neutrality of Spain, in all matters affecting the entrance to the Mediterranean.

It was clear that on the outbreak of hostilities the occupation of Tangier Bay would be of great importance, and M. de Ojeda observed that he had still fresh in his memory a remark made to him last summer by the French Admiral Caillard, during his visit to Tangier, that in the event of a war with Great Britain, all the naval force and strategy of France would be concentrated in the Mediterranean. After a war, it was understood that Morocco would no longer be an independent State, and for any services rendered by Spain, France would be ready to give considerable territorial compensations. M. de Ojeda indicated that these compensations might be arranged by France taking the Moulouya River as her frontier on the east with a line to the Atlantic, and leaving to Spain Tangier and the surrounding districts.

I told M. de Ojeda that it seemed to me that these projects depended on somewhat remote and uncertain contingencies, and that it was of more practical and immediate interest to know that no one wished to disturb the *status quo*. I hoped, therefore, that all would co-operate in encouraging the Sultan in his reforms and in his endeavours to develop his country.

M. de Ojeda said that he wished to tell me, in regard to this last remark of mine, that from the despatches his Government had received from Paris, and from what he had himself gathered from the French Embassy at Madrid, it would appear that the French Government were displeased with the disposition of the Sultan to follow solely English advice, and that they considered that the proposals for reforms had emanated from the British Legation. He understood that it was contemplated to actively assert French influence at the Shereefian Court, and to render it, if possible, predominant.

I told M. de Ojeda that there had been no desire on our part to acquire a privileged position at the Court, and that if any advice had been tendered to the Sultan in the direction of much-needed improvements, there had been no attempts to secure any exclusive concessions to British interests. What had been recommended was solely for the general benefit of Morocco and of foreign commerce, and that I was sure no objection would be raised to the Sultan seeking counsel from all who honestly desired to introduce some progress and enlightenment into the country. M. de Ojeda remarked that perhaps the advice which others might proffer would not be of so disinterested a character as that which the Sultan had hitherto received.

Our conversation then turned to other subjects.

I have ventured to report to your Lordship these remarks of the Spanish Minister, as he has had interviews with all the principal members of the Spanish Government, and was on intimate terms with the French Embassy at Madrid. He did not refer to the question of Cape Juby and I did not, therefore, remind him of what he had formerly said on that subject and which I reported in my despatch No. 163 of the 14th ultimo.

I may add that M. de Ojeda mentioned, incidentally, that the Military Attaché of the French Embassy had been endeavouring to induce the Spanish authorities to accept French assistance in strengthening the defences of the Balearic Isles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---



No. 338.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 18, 1901.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a correspondence which has passed between the London Chamber of Commerce and myself in regard to the issue of semsars' certificates. I venture to forward the correspondence in case any of the interested firms should address your Lordship on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 338.

*Mr. Murray to Sir A. Nicolson.*

*London Chamber of Commerce, Eastcheap, London,*
Your Excellency, *December* 12, 1901.

I HAVE received the inclosed Memorial signed by a number of firms the majority of whom are members of this Chamber.

I have much pleasure in forwarding this document to you for such consideration as you may be able to give thereto.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KENRIC B. MURRAY, *Secretary.*

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 338.

*Memorial from British Firms to Sir A. Nicolson.*

Sir, *London, November* , 1901.

WE, the Undersigned, being independently represented in Mogador by Mr. Leon Corcos, have the honour to request that he be appointed British semsar.

Mr. Leon Corcos is a gentleman of very high character and ability. He controls our respective businesses, he has the entire collection of accounts in his hands, and he often has to travel to Marrakesh at much personal risk.

These considerations lead us to believe that it is imperative that he should be protected by our Government.

Trusting that you will favourably consider our request, we have, &c.
(Signed) HARRISONS AND CROSFIELD
(And 10 other Firms).

---

Inclosure 3 in No. 338.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Mr. Murray.*

Sir, *Tangier, December* 18, 1901.

I BEG leave to acknowledge receipt of the letter you were good enough to address to me on the 12th instant, inclosing a Memorial from several British firms in favour of Mr. Leon Corcos receiving a semsar's certificate.

It is unnecessary for me to assure you that any representation from the commercial houses which have signed the Memorial would receive my most careful attention, and that I should always be pleased to meet any request from them so far as lay in my power.

I should wish to explain the custom which governs the issue of semsar certificates. By Treaty, commercial houses transacting a considerable export and import trade with Morocco are allowed two semsars each. The Moorish authorities and all the foreign Representatives, with the exception of this Legation and the United States' Representative, consider that this privilege is limited to commercial firms

resident in Morocco or with properly constituted branch establishments in the country, and decline to accord semsar certificates to agents of houses whose domicile is out of Morocco. This Legation interprets the terms of the Treaty more liberally and accords certificates to British firms non-resident in Morocco if the volume of their transactions can be justly considered as forming a "considerable import and export trade."

With respect to the particular case mentioned in the Memorial, I would wish to point out that it would not be possible to grant Mr. Leon Corcos a general semsar's certificate, as he must be semsar in the employ of some particular firm. If, nevertheless, any of the commercial houses who have signed the Memorial is transacting a considerable import and export trade with Morocco, and has not already two semsars, I should be happy to consider any application such firm may make to me for the appointment of Mr. Leon Corcos as semsar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

No. 339.

*Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.*—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 184.)
*Tangier, December* 24, 1901.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a correspondence which has passed between the Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society and myself relative to the Slave Trade in Morocco.

I think it would be exceedingly difficult for the Sultan to abolish the slave markets in the interior, though the public sale of slaves at the coast towns is not permitted.

At the same time, if your Lordship approves, I might, in a friendly and unofficial manner, mention to His Majesty the interest which is taken in my country on the subject, and suggest that His Majesty might watch over, so far as lay in his power, the comfort and welfare of those who are in a condition of servitude.

I understand that the chief hardships and ill-treatment occur during the journeys to the slave markets; but, as is evidenced by a Report I received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, the sources whence slaves were formerly obtained are gradually being exhausted.

The lot of slaves when they have passed into domestic service is generally not an intolerable one; it may even be said that in the majority of cases it is an easy one.

It would be a very serious undertaking to endeavour to abolish domestic slavery, a custom which is so firmly established by the traditions and habits of the people, and which is, moreover, sanctioned by their religious laws.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---

Inclosure 1 in No. 339.

*British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society to Sir A. Nicolson.*

*55, New Broad Street, London, December* 17, 1901.

Dear Sir,

THIS Society has, as you are aware, always taken a deep interest in the question of slavery and slave-trading in Morocco, and has often endeavoured especially to get a stop put to the open sale of slaves in the towns of the interior, but thus far, unfortunately, without success. Our Committee believe that there has been in the past, both on account of the favourable disposition of the Sultan, and for other reasons [*sic*]. I venture, therefore, on behalf of the Committee, to draw your attention to the subject, and to ask that, during the visit which we are informed you are about to pay to the Sultan at Rabat, you will be good enough to use any opportunity that may occur of urging the pressing need of reform in this direction upon His Majesty's attention.

I beg to inclose a cutting from the "Daily Chronicle" of the 22nd November, containing a description of the slave market—an account which is fully confirmed by a letter recently received by Mr. Henry Gurney, a member of our Committee, from a



young Moor personally known to him, describing in detail the proceedings of the slave market regularly held three times a week at Marakesh, of which the writer had been an eye-witness.

I may add, in regard to the article from the "Daily Chronicle" inclosed, that our Committee have understood that the trade in slaves from the South into Morocco has been greatly checked of late owing to British and French influence south of the Sahara, and they are therefore somewhat surprised at this writer's statements concerning the importation of slave girls and others from the Niger, and hesitate to accept them without further authority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TRAVERS BUXTON, *Secretary.*

---

Inclosure 2 in No. 339.

*Sir A. Nicolson to Mr. Travers Buxton.*

Sir,

*Tangier, December* 24, 1901.

I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and to state in reply that, should His Majesty's Secretary of State approve, I shall be happy to take any favourable opportunity of doing what is possible towards mitigating the evils to which you have drawn my attention.

I may add, for the information of your Society, that it has been reported to me that the Tafilelt slave dealers who journeyed to Tuat for the purpose of purchasing slaves have returned from the latter place, having been unable to effect any transactions now that the Tuat oases have come under French jurisdiction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

---